



ECPC News welcomes submissions from all parks friends groups to [ecpc@newhavenct.net](mailto:ecpc@newhavenct.net) or ECPC News at the above address.

**POLAR PLUNGE FOR PARKS**

Were you there, at Lighthouse Point Park, on New Year's Day, 2005? Did you plunge for parks? Or did you watch the nearly 50 park-loving polar bears jump into Long Island? Will you be joining us on January 1, 2006? If so maybe you can help break the record of reigning champion pledge collector, CHRIS RANDALL, who donates the monies he collects to the William St. Community Garden. Or plunge and show you enjoy the water more than TOM POLAR BEAR HOLAHAN. Or drive in with more dignity than our polar elder, BOB BRUNELLI.

If you are not into plunging, unlike this year's youngest plunger, SCOTT BRUBALIAN, or the manatee, JEFF BRUBALIAN, and the most creative team # 26 of Quinnipiac River fame, you can enjoy the family fun and food. If you are not too busy eating the great brunch of blueberry or banana pancakes, bacon, sausage and eggs, maybe you can beat the dipper with the most style, MATT SWEENEY.

Will the most Honorable MAYOR JOHN DESTEFANO again lead the pack? Be sure to join us, January 1, 2006, 11:00 AM, at the Carousel House to find out.

-Cordalie Benoit



*Or can you beat board member and polar plunge chair, Chris Ozyck's run-way style? (photo by Steve Wilcox)*

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Spring is almost here and we at ECPC have a lot planned for the next few months. Our **annual meeting** is just around the corner. On **April 21<sup>st</sup>** we will celebrate Earth Day with an exciting guest speaker, author and **Dark Skies**



**activist, Bob Crelin.** Bob will give an entertaining presentation on our night sky, or, for us city dwellers bathed in perpetual daylight, our lack of a night sky. We will have a potluck at six, so bring a dish and join us. The presentation will start at seven. Our largest fundraiser of the year, the Sip into Spring, is only a few weeks later on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Sip into Spring is our annual wine tasting and silent auction in the shadow of the carousel in beautiful Lighthouse Point Park. There will be music provided by the Neighborhood Music School Premier Jazz Ensemble and an art exhibition by local artists. This event gets more popular every year and could sell out. I advise you to get your tickets early. Where else can you have this much fun and still help out a great cause? All of the proceeds raised go to help ECPC advocate on behalf of New Haven Parks, some of the best urban parks in the country.

What have we been up to since our last newsletter? On January 1<sup>st</sup>, at high noon, about 50 plungers set aside their fears, their health and their good judgement, to plunge into the ice cold waters of Long Island Sound. This year's Polar Plunge was a great success. Our plungers and sponsors raised about \$2,000. The Plunge is turning into a real media event and one not to be missed. Plungers were featured in both the New Haven Register and the Hartford Courant and televised on Channel 30. This year our mayor, the Honorable John DeStefano, even took the plunge. The breakfast was once again delicious thanks to Illisa, our staff person, and our dedicated board member Dave Reher. The Polar Plunge is a refreshing and fun way to ring in the New Year and I thank everybody who participated.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events and I thank you, my fellow park lovers, for all of your support.

I'll see you outside,  
**Stephen Wilcox**, President

**ATTENTION ALL PARKS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS**

**DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A COMMUNITY EVENT IN YOUR LOCAL PARK?**

Thanks to continuing support from the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, ECPC is looking to aid your community park events through our

**EXPERIENCE YOUR PARKS! GRANTS**

Make your idea a reality! Design a tour or event to showcase your local New Haven Park big or small ECPC can answer questions, offer added people power, or start-up funds. For more information or to receive an application contact ECPC or visit our web site at

<http://cityofnewhaven.com/parks/ecpc.htm#programs>.

The ECPC board meets monthly, and applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

**WANTED: VOLUNTEER CURATOR AND ARTISTS FOR Parks EXHIBITION**



The setting for this one night, non-juried exhibition is **Sip into Spring**, ECPC's annual wine-tasting, silent auction fundraiser. The theme of the show is parks.

ECPC seeks a **curator** to work on selection panel and hang the show. Students welcome!!

ECPC seeks **artwork** by local artists for exhibition. All media. Please contact ECPC ASAP. 946-5713, [ecpc@newhavenct.net](mailto:ecpc@newhavenct.net)

**ECPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Steve Wilcox, *President* - Cordalie Benoit, *Vice President*  
 Easter Howard, *Secretary* - Anna Schildroth, *Treasurer*  
 Chris Ozyck, Dave Reher, Dave Demers, Michelle Maitland, Marge Ottenbreit, Colin Caplan, Kris Sainsbury,  
 Paul Larivee, Barbara Schlein *Staff* - Illisa Kelman

**BOARD MEETINGS**

6-7:30 pm, 4th Wednesday of each month, New Haven Parks Offices  
 720 Edgewood Avenue. Open to the public.  
 Please call 946-5713 in case of scheduling changes.

**ECPC'S WEBSITE IS UP & RUNNING**

thanks to New Haven Parks Department and its great web consultant, James Baird!!

<http://cityofnewhaven.com/parks/ecpc.htm>

Keep posted on upcoming events and activities.  
 Contact a Park Friends group.  
 Read old newsletters.

Citizen-based and not-for-profit, **Elm City Parks Conservancy** is the only parks advocacy organization serving New Haven's parks system. Our mission is to partner with parks friends groups, parks users and New Haven's Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Trees to strengthen public awareness, participation and preservation of New Haven's beautiful and historic parks system.

**CALL OUT for PHOTOS.** If you have photographs from an ECPC or neighborhood park event, please send us a copy, through email or snail mail, along with the name of the photographer. We'll liven up the web site with your images.

### ECPC STAFF NOTES

ECPC has kicked off 2005 with a bang. We shared a wild and wooly good time with members, friends and **Mayor DeStefano**, at Polar Plunge. Our fund raising efforts were enhanced by the generous sponsorship of **East Haven Landscape Products**, which purchased us carousel time, the **Parks Department**, **New Alliance Bank** and **Seaboard Oil**. We are continuing our partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern program. Due in part to the great experience we offered our past interns, ten young adults have chosen ECPC and New Haven as their first choice this year, competing for two positions! They will be available to perform work projects in neighborhood parks. We continue to offer Experience Your Parks Small Grants to cover costs at neighborhood parks events, and we are planning our Parks Presents events for the coming nice weather.

Expanding our open space conservation efforts, ECPC has joined forces with Fair Haven's Dragon Oyster LLC and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to reinvigorate New Haven's oyster fishery. The objective of this new sustainable commercial venture is to enhance water quality and biodiversity. ECPC will run the education, outreach and citizen science programs based at Dover Beach Park.

We strongly encourage your active participation as we strive to restore and preserve New Haven's outdoor treasures. Email or call me at the office with ideas and thoughts. Thanks for supporting us, and Happy Spring!  
-*Illisa Kelman*

#### SAVE THE DATES- watch your inboxes and mail boxes!

An **Andean Evening** to benefit **Bishop Woods Bird Sanctuary**, sponsored by the Friends of Bishop Woods. Wed., **April 20**, 5-9 PM. Machu Pichu Peruvian Restaurant. Call Joy at 469-6683.

**ECPC's 2005 Annual Meeting.** Coogan Pavillion, Edgewood Park. Thursday, **April 21**, 6 PM. Keynote speaker: **Bob Crelin**, Saving the Starry Night Skies: How to enjoy and preserve our view of the universe. Members and friends potluck at 6 PM. Presentation at 7PM.

**Sip into Spring.** ECPC's wine tasting and silent auction fund-raiser, at the Carousel, Lighthouse Point Park. Thursday, **May 12**.

**Friends of Fort Nathan Hale** announces four events for May and June! For information, see the related article in the next column.

**Celebrate Bay View Park**, sponsored by the Friends of Bay View Park. **June 11**. Call Kris Sainsbury at 776-9748.

**ECPC Independence Day Picnic**, for members only. At the Summit of East Rock Park. Monday, **July 4**.

#### ORNAMENTAL ICONS: HELPING NEW HAVEN'S HERITAGE

ECPC continues our effort to bring attention to New Haven's historic public monument through sales of our Ornamental Icons. The City of New Haven and the Parks Department are systematically conserving each piece of sculpture, stone and bronze. In conjunction with this enormous undertaking, ECPC is selling these collectible ornaments to raise public awareness and appreciation of these features. Our initial ornament featuring the Five-Mile Point Lighthouse at Lighthouse Point Park is proving wildly popular!



We encourage you to participate in this campaign for sculpture while supporting ECPC's advocacy efforts. As a small gift or distinctive decoration, these ornaments are both attractive and affordable at **\$12 each or \$30 for 3**. **ECPC members receive discounted pricing of \$10 each or \$25 for 3**. To purchase your ornament, call, email or visit our web site: <http://cityofnewhaven.com/parks/ecpc.htm#programs>. Download an order form in "Public Art in the Parks".

### AN ANGELS VIEW OF FIREWORKS

On Fourth of July, ECPC thanks our supporters with a private party on the summit of East Rock. Experience the views of multiple displays up and down the shoreline but avoid the traffic and chaos. This event offers the perfect setting for any holiday gathering - a family outing, a romantic picnic, or a group of friends grilling and chilling. Children play games in the open lawn, and then settle in for a non-intimidating fireworks experience distance and height dampen the noise. To limit public entry, ECPC reserves use of the summit for the evening, and hires an of duty officer to patrol and control access. Join us and take advantage of two of New Haven's great legacies: Parks and The Fourth's Fireworks.



- *Chris Ozyck*

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT FORT NATHAN HALE AND BLACK ROCK FORT: SAVE THE DATES!

Fort Nathan Hale will open its 2005 season with a **Memorial flag raising ceremony** at the Flag Court on Saturday, **May 28<sup>th</sup>** at 10 AM. Meet and greet Civil War soldiers and Artillery officers, as well as current political dignitaries. Watch the Civil War Engineers drawing maps using mid-nineteenth century tools and techniques. There is no charge to visit and chat with the participants, but donations are welcome. Join us for some living history fun!

On Friday, **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Projects (FNHRP) will host a **Patron's Party** at the historic **Yale Boat House** from 5 to 7 PM. Don't miss this chance to visit this beautiful building, as this may be last event held there before it's



demolition. The following day, **June 4<sup>th</sup>**, FNHRP will present the **East Shore House Tour** the first house tour in ten years. Visit six unusual and interesting homes on Townsend Avenue, beginning at the historic Victorian Townshend Estate and ending with refreshments at Fort Hale. Tickets to the elegant Patron's Party and

Silent Auction AND house tour are \$35. Tickets for the house tour alone are \$15 in advance, \$20 on Tour Day.

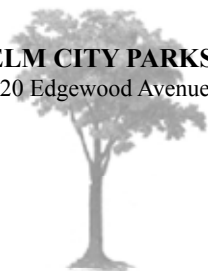
Our Connecticut state hero, **Nathan Hale** was born **250 years ago**. Watch for notices for a **June 6<sup>th</sup>** birthday celebration to be hosted by FNHRP with the help of local schools.

For information and tickets, please call 466-1596.

-*Marge Ottenbreit*

### ELM CITY PARKS CONSERVANCY

720 Edgewood Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515



ECPC NEWS: SPRING '05

*Please Open Immediately*

***Dated Material Enclosed***