

ECPC News welcomes submissions from all parks friends groups to [elmcityparksconservancy@yahoo.com](mailto:elmcityparksconservancy@yahoo.com) or ECPC News at the above address.

ECPC is supported in part by the New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation & Trees.



**SPRING + ECPC = SIP INTO SPRING!**

What do you get when you mix a wine-tasting, a jazz band, an art exhibit, good food and lots of park-loving people? ECPC's Sip into Spring! ECPC will hold this annual fund-raiser on May 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8 PM in the historic Carousel House at Lighthouse Point Park.

ArtSpot!, the popular New Haven Happy Hour with an arts twist

, will return as a sponsor, increasing the crowd of revelers at this fabulous event. The Neighborhood Music School will again provide exciting live music.

Sip is not your typical wine-tasting. Local artists painters, sculptors and photographers - will participate in an exhibition of their work. The incredible caricaturist who delighted many Polar Plungers will be on hand to render whomever so wishes. Odd Bins Bottle Shop will coordinate an outstanding selection of wines from six of their distributors.



You can snack on delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts. And, of course, you can ride the beautifully restored antique carousel. Our silent auction will again feature items and gift certificates from local merchants & restaurants. (Bring your checkbook!)

During Sip, the Carousel House becomes a wonderland of spring vegetation under the direction of Alfresco Landscape & Design's Chris Ozyck and his hard working volunteers. A beautiful sight in a spectacular location makes a great time for all!

Tickets \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members can be purchased from committee members, Michelle Maitland, Steve Wilcox, Cordalie Benoit, Chris Ozyck, Marge Ottenbreit, Anna Schildroth, Jeanne Whalen, Easter Howard, Paul Larivee, Dave Reher or Dave Demers. Or contact Illisa at the ECPC office at 946-5713, or [elmcityparksconservancy@yahoo.com](mailto:elmcityparksconservancy@yahoo.com), or Marge at 466-1596.

- Marge Ottenbreit

**ECPC'S SPONSORS COMMUNITY PARK EVENTS!**

ECPC regularly sponsors events in parks across the city, enabling community groups stretch to their limited resources. The Parks Dept. generously allows us to extend our permitting and insurance coverage to parks and neighborhood groups for events that are free and open-to-the-public. ECPC sponsors the annual **May Day on the Green**, the **Ideat Village** at Temple Plaza, and EACH of the **Cityseed farmers markets** held at Russo, Edgewood and Quinnipiac Parks (onging until the end of October). In 2005, we supported the **Jocelyn Park Celebration**, **Celebrate Bay View Park**, **Hiroshima Day on the Green**, and the huge **West Rock Park Day Festival**.

If your parks or neighborhood group is producing a public event in a city park, contact ECPC.

**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.

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. ECPC is a 501(c)(3) organization to which all donations are tax deductible.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

New Haven is blessed with some of the best urban parks in America. From the waters of Lighthouse Point Park to the summits of East Rock and West Rock parks and everything in between, New Haven's diverse parks include every terrain and recreational facility imaginable. One thing we lack, though, is a great linear trail. A place where one can bike, jog, stroll or roller blade without having to worry about cars. Well, this is finally going to change.



The Farmington Canal Rail-Trail has been a big hit in Hamden and Cheshire for years. Hamden has been slowly extending its section of the trail towards New Haven. New Haven recently celebrated the completion of a new section of the trail in front of Yale's new engineering building. This brings New Haven's paved section to about 3/4 of a mile. Plans are in the works to continue this section of the trail to the Hamden line by the summer of 2007. When the entire rail-trail is completed, it will stretch from the New Haven Harbor to Northampton, MA, a distance of 84 miles. ECPC, in conjunction with the Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association, is planning its own celebration for the newly paved trail. On Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Connecticut Trails Day, we are planning a mini-festival along the trail between Scantlebury Park and Lincoln/Basset Greenspace in the Dixwell/Newhallville neighborhoods. There will be guided walks along the historic trail, tours of adjacent community gardens and greenspaces, a climbing wall for kids, music and free give-aways. Scantlebury Park is located in between Grove Street and Science Park.

Come experience the promise this trail holds for New Haven's future. Although only a short 3/4 of a mile, the trail is already beautiful. In some parts it is quite wooded and one can easily forget one is in a city. The trail passes through Science Park, by old stone walls from the railroad era, and ends at the impressive new Caesar Pelli designed Yale Malone Engineering Building. The view of the New Haven skyline from the trail is amazing. In the future, when the trail is paved to Hamden, bike riders from Cheshire and Hamden will be rewarded for their hard work with a dramatic view of the city skyline as they enter our great city, a visual sign that their journey is almost over and they have arrived in the big city. They can have a great lunch and do a little shopping then bike back to their sleepy bedroom communities.

-Stephen Wilcox, President

**QUINNIPIAC U. HELPS TO CLEAN UP WEST RIVER NARROWS**

On Saturday, October 15, the West River Narrows Park (WRNP) once again became the focus of a community effort to clean up debris and junk.

Organized by the WRNP Friends Group and with the assistance of the Community Action Project (CAP) program from Quinnipiac University, over forty giant garbage bags of litter and debris were collected



*Quinnipiac University CAP students*

from the park site. The cleanup happened at the tail end of a rainy week and the river was about four feet above normal - at near-peak flood level. With the roaring waters as a backdrop, about 20 students and some community members scattered throughout the 25-acre park to collect refuse left via dumping and casual littering. The students became acquainted with the paths and topography quickly, and enjoyed the open space across from West Hills School on Valley Street. I was the only one to end up with a casualty, stumbling upon a beehive. Overall, the day was a great success with local businesses and a university helping to clean up the park.

-Colin Caplan

**ECPC CELEBRATES THE  
NEWLY RESTORED  
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS MONUMENT**

ECPC introduces our second Ornamental Icon: the **Christopher Columbus Monument** of Wooster Square. With the Columbus medallion, we are continuing our effort to bring attention to New Haven's historic public monuments that we began in 2004 with the release of the Five-Mile Point Lighthouse ornament. The City of New Haven and the Parks Department are systematically conserving each piece of sculpture, stone and bronze. To raise public awareness and appreciation of these sculptures and the renewed interest in their conservation, ECPC is selling these collectible ornaments.



The Lighthouse ornament - still available - has been popular, and with the Columbus medallion, we hope to increase the breadth and effectiveness of this program. By purchasing these ornaments, you are demonstrating support for public art while aiding 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".

**SAVE THE DATES - ECPC and other park events  
watch your inboxes and mail boxes!**

**ECPC's 2006 Annual Meeting**, Thursday, **April 20**. Location TBA. Keynote speaker: **Frances Miller**, of ConservArt, conservator of New Haven's public monuments. Members potluck, 6 PM; presentation, 7PM.

**Yoga in the woods**, Saturday, **April 29**. 10:30AM. Rain date: May 6. Met at Harmac Drive trail head. Contact [joy@joyridecharters.com](mailto:joy@joyridecharters.com).

**May Day** on the New Haven Green. **May 1**, 12-7PM.

**Cherry Blossom Festival**, Saturday, **April 23**. Wooster Square Park.

**Sip into Spring**, Thursday, **May 11**. ECPC's wine tasting and silent auction fund-raiser, at the Carousel, Lighthouse Point Park.

**Jazz in the Parks**, Thursdays, from **July 6 - August 3**. At various parks. <http://cityofnewhaven.com/parks>

**ECPC Independence Day Picnic**, Tuesday, **July 4**. For members only.

**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.

**FRIENDS OF EDGEWOOD WINS A NEW ALLIANCE GRANT!**

With the assistance of ECPC, the Friends of Edgewood Park (FOEP) have won a grant from the New Alliance Foundation. They will use the money toward making the new Edgewood Park Adult Fitness Course accessible to people with disabilities. Congratulations FOEP!!

**POLAR PLUNGE PLUS:**

**ECPC'S INAUGURAL FIRST DAY FESTIVAL**

On January 1, ECPC hosted our inaugural First Day Festival at the Carousel House at Lighthouse Point Park. With Polar Plunge for Parks, our annual parks' group fund-raiser, as its anchoring event, First Day drew a couple hundred revelers to enjoy live music, our famous fresh-cooked brunch buffet, and kids' games. Ranger Terry McCool honored us with his time and knowledge, taking all who wished on tours of the historic Five-Mile Point Lighthouse. Caricaturist, Wild Bill, proved another popular, new addition to the festivities, delighting all with his quirky drawings.



*Rebecca Weiner, happy as a clam after the plunge (above, courtesy of R. Weiner); there they go!!! (below, by Peter Pettersen)*

Once again, Chris Randall taking all of his \$650 to the William Street Community Garden. Edgewood Park, Bishop Woods, East Rock, East Shore and Lighthouse Parks also served to benefit from the happy discomfort of plungers. As usual, we had two steaming hot tubs to warm the bathers.

First Day proved a great success, thanks to the participants, the volunteers, and to our sponsors: Stratton Faxon, East Haven Landscape Products, the Advocate, Harvey Koizim, Alfresco, Moka, Dominoes and our usual collaborator, New Haven Parks Department.

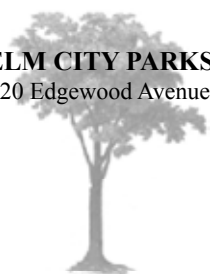


**CALL OUT for PHOTOS**

If you have photographs from an ECPC or neighborhood park event, please send us copies, through email or snail mail, along with the name of the photographer. We'll live up the web site with your credited images.

**ELM CITY PARKS CONSERVANCY**

720 Edgewood Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515



**ECPC NEWS: spring '06**

*Please Open Immediately*

***Dated Material Enclosed***