

June 2006 NewsLetter

The Great Park Pursuit



"The Great Park Pursuit" will take Connecticut families on a journey to eight different state parks and forests over an eight-week period. At each location, teams will be asked to complete various activities such as a scavenger hunt, hike, fishing and more. At the end of each task, families will receive a clue to the following week's park or forest. Additional clues to the location will be available on the campaign web site.

The "No Child Left Inside" campaign was created by the DEP to raise awareness for the recreational activities available at the state's 137 state parks and forests, attract families to the parks and build enthusiasm for the outdoors among children. "The Great Park Pursuit, The Connecticut State Parks Family Adventure" is being executed by DEP with support from the Friends of Connecticut State Parks, Connecticut Forest and Park Association, WFSB-TV/3, North Cove Outfitters and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Putnam Park Part Of The Great Park Pursuit



The front entrance was opened with the brand new PUTNAM PARK gates in place. The park crew made the gates in the park workshop during this past winter.



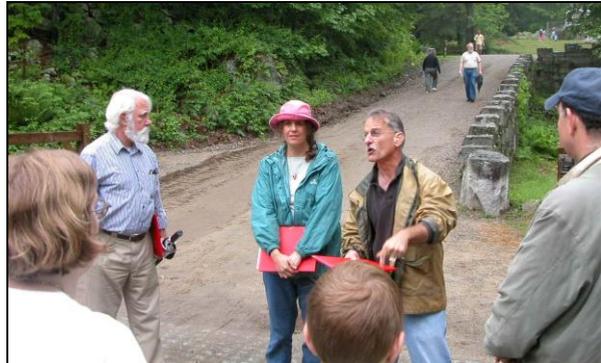
Park Supervisor Nathan Hale looks over his park to make sure that all was ready for the families that were arriving at Putnam,



Pam Adams, Director of State Parks, and Cyndy Redmond, Office of Communications, welcomes incoming families at the entrance of the park.



DEP and event sponsor volunteers help with the registration of families at the entrance.



FANs archaeologists Dan Cruson and Kathleen von Jena joined CT State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni in leading archaeology tours of the 1778 army encampment.

Great Park Pursuit At Putnam



Concierge at the Putnam Hilton? Nope, this is the information desk in the new park visitor center which is now open seven days a week.



Redding Pilot

Capt. Todd Gerlander of the 11th Regiment of Connecticut Militia fires of his musket for the participants in the great park pursuit.



Smokey the Bear was on the scene at the visitor center. He posed for many pictures with the kids and a few moms, too!



FANs resident Whitesmith cranked out another load of musket balls.



Wow
Do you think
its loaded?



The heavens opened up during the afternoon. It rained cats and dogs. The visitor center was a very popular shelter for the very wet people.



A nice dry visitor center also had the company store Open for business. Musket balls, pewter sundials And pewter Putnam Park medallions were big sellers.



Park Ranger Andy Sullivan rode the Park trails helping out volunteers.



Remember this building just a couple of years ago?



New gates made by Nathan Hale and his crew looked just great.

Greenwich School Puts Down Old Put Mural



Mural May Not Be Welcomed Back To School

By Keach Hagey Staff Writer

School officials are balking at a plan to return a historic Revolutionary War mural to Hamilton Avenue Magnet School in Greenwich, CT, after a restoration, saying its battle scenes are too violent for young children.

The mural, "The Life and Times of General Israel Putnam of Connecticut," depicts Greenwich's Revolutionary War hero stripped half-naked, about to be burned at the stake. He sits astride a wild-looking horse and is aiming his musket at snarling wolves, while all around him Native Americans hurl tomahawks and men armed with prominent guns and knives tussle. It was painted by James Daugherty of Weston. "It's a beautiful work of art, but I think it's a beautiful work of art for adults," Hamilton Avenue School Principal Damaris Rau said. "I don't think it's something that children should be looking at on a daily basis because it is very violent."

Commissioned by the Works Progress Administration under President Roosevelt in 1935, the painting belongs to the town and was first hung in the First Selectman's Office at the old Town Hall. Five years later, it was moved to the gymnasium of the Hamilton Avenue school, where it hung for nearly 60 years, through an arrangement in which the school acted as the custodian of the artwork for the town. The years of occasional knocks by errant basketballs had not been kind to the mural's paint, and in 1998 it was removed and restored with \$54,145 donated by the Ruth W. Brown Foundation.

AP Wire – June 4, 2006

In a town that holds Gen. Israel Putnam as a hero, trouble is brewing with the local school board and principal. The town has named its main street (the Rt 1 Post Road) Putnam Avenue. The town seal bears Old Put's picture atop his horse. The seal appears on police cars and town vehicles. But a few mothers think their 3 and 4 year old kids are exposed to scary depictions of Indians, wolves and violence. The principal is siding with the moms.

Fortunately, there are more mature minds at the Greenwich Library who are willing to keep the town's treasure for its citizens to view for many more years to come. We wonder how God, flag and the Pledge of Allegiance are holding up down in Greenwich Town?

June FAN's Meeting



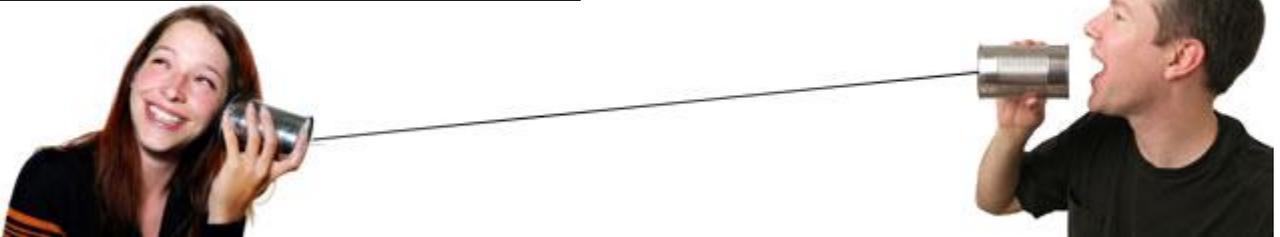
The June meeting of the Friends group was held on Tuesday June 13th at the park Visitor Center.

Discussions held included:

1. The Treasurer's Report was covered by Harry Gibson.
2. Nancy Cowles recapped last month's *Living History School Days* program. May 15th thru 19th. A debriefing session was held on the program for improvements for next year. The museum program can not be run with the current capacity limitations.
3. Nathan Hale said that there will be a meeting held in the near future to address the furnishings and needs for the visitor center. One of issues was that of sales of souvenirs. Should DEP staff sell FANs gift items? To be addressed. Is it feasible to have FANs volunteers work in the center to sell the gifts.
4. Nancy Cowles has a good start on the Summer Craftsmen program for this summer. More to come on this important program.



FANs Has An E-Mail Address



friendsofputnampark@comcast.net

This monthly newsletter was originally a vehicle to keep members updated on the progress of the transformation of the 1893 Pavilion into the Park Visitor Center. While the building is completed, there is still much to be done to complete the goal of interpretative center status. Anyway, the newsletter is now open for your suggestions and comments. We now have an e-mail address where you can contact us!

- What would you like to read and see in the future newsletters?
- What are your comments on the park and what would you like to see added in the future?
- What are your suggestions for the FANs organization or the DEP State Parks organization?



The next FAN's Meeting will be on **Tuesday Evening July 11th** at the new **Visitor Center** at Putnam Park. The meeting will start at **7:00pm**.