



CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY

A newsletter for our members and supporters

Summer 2009

Beneath the
beauty and
tranquility of
Central Park,
there lies so
much more.

The Urban Laboratory

CENTRAL PARK
CONSERVANCY

centralparknyc.org

GREETINGS FROM
Douglas Blonsky



See the Park With Sara

When it comes to seeing Central Park, there's no better guide than Sara Cedar Miller, the Conservancy's Central Park historian and photographer.

Now you can take an intimate tour of the Park with Sara's new book, *Seeing Central Park: The Official Guide to the World's Greatest Urban Park*. It's a beautiful guide that invites us, with engaging text and lavish photography, to see the man-made Park as the work of art it is. The book highlights all of the Park's significant design elements. There's another unique touch — the inside of the jacket cover unfolds to provide a map of the Park.



Sara Cedar Miller

Purchase the book

At the Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop or on our website, centralparknyc.org/store

For a tour

Call us at **212-310-6600** for information and pricing.

Seeing Central Park is a must for all of us who love and support the Park. Conservancy members get a 20-percent member discount, with proceeds from all sales going directly to the Conservancy.

The Conservancy provides another way to come out and see the Park as you have never before with a private, custom-designed tour led by Sara herself. This van tour is an exceptional way to learn the Park's hidden stories. And I'm pleased to announce tour interpreters are now available in a host of languages, for an additional fee.

I hope you'll take advantage of the opportunities you have to see Central Park and enjoy all it has to offer this summer.

Douglas Blonsky
President, Central Park Conservancy
and Central Park Administrator



Seeing Central Park AudioGuide

Bethesda Fountain

Dial & Discover
646-862-0997
Ext. **051#**

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Seeing Central Park AudioGuide

Conservatory Water Model Boat Pond

Dial & Discover
646-862-0997
Ext. **12#**

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Seeing Central Park AudioGuide

Turtle Pond

Dial & Discover
646-862-0997
Ext. **39#**

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HEARING IS BELIEVING

The Stars Come Out For Central Park

This summer, New York's most famous celebrities are waiting for you in Central Park.

Look for Jerry Seinfeld under the American Elms on the Mall, and Whoopi Goldberg with the zany characters of Alice in Wonderland. Find Kevin Bacon at the Reservoir, and Martha Stewart among the more than 400 lush green pines of the Pinetum.

From the Pond to the Harlem Meer, look for the green signs near your favorite landscapes. Then, call the posted number to find out why an angel keeps watch on the heart of the Park, or how a cozy cottage made its way here

from Sweden.

They join more than 35 iconic New Yorkers who have lent their voices to the Park in an exciting new AudioGuide that puts our 843 historic acres in the palm of your hand.

"We're thrilled that so many celebrated friends of the Park have come out to support us," says Douglas Blonsky, President of the Central Park Conservancy and Central Park Administrator. "Now our visitors can call those familiar voices to discover the rich history of Central Park and the Conservancy."

VOLUNTEER

Pitch In and Help Us Keep The Park Clean

Volunteerism has been getting a lot of attention, thanks to recent national and local calls to service. Here in Central Park, we're always looking for helping hands.

This summer, our newest volunteer program makes it easier than ever to be part of your Park — just Pitch In, Pick Up!

With more than 25 million people visiting Central Park,

every stray napkin and tossed bottle adds up to five million pounds of trash each year. Considering how much that represents, the Conservancy's staff does an excellent job of keeping the Park beautiful. But we need your help too.

Whether you have an hour or an afternoon to give, you can help make a difference by helping us keep the

Park clean and green.

Just stop by one of our visitor centers (listed below) whenever you wish from Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (all equipment must be returned by 4:30 pm). Sign out a name-tag, and choose either a grabber or sweeper.

Then pitch in by helping us pick up litter!

Visitor Centers Where You Can Pitch In, Pick Up

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (inside the Park at 110th Street between Lenox and Fifth Avenues)

Belvedere Castle (mid-Park at 79th Street)

Chess & Checkers House (mid-Park at 64th Street)

North Meadow Recreation Center (mid-Park at 97th Street)

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities in Central Park, visit us at www.centralparknyc.org/volunteer or call **212-360-2751**.



There's a side of Central Park you might not see as you stroll its pathways and wander its landscapes. With its diversity of plant life, the Park is nothing short of an 843-acre urban laboratory — right in the heart of New York City.

The Urban Laboratory

From the stately American Elms on the Mall to the springtime blooms of the Kwanzan and Yoshino Cherry trees at the Reservoir, the Park boasts an impressive 24,000 trees representing more than 150 species.

"The potential for learning and cooperation is massive," says Matthew Brown, the Central Park Conservancy's supervisor of the soil, water, and ecology lab. "We have such a rich collection of trees in the Park; some of them are world-class specimens."

More impressive — the Conservancy now knows every detail of every one of those trees, thanks to a comprehensive census completed in 2008. Using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, arborists recorded the tree's location and specific attributes of each tree, including species, size,

and approximate age of all trees larger than six inches in diameter. With that valuable information, the Conservancy's Tree Care Crew is better equipped to meet the daily challenge caring for the lungs of the City — tracking the trees' condition, monitoring habitat, protecting them from the stresses of an urban environment, and trimming them to keep the Park's pathways clear and safe.

As a result, a vast opportunity for scientific research and exploration lies, unexpectedly, right in the midst of the frenzy of the City. All through the year, researchers from institutions and universities are culling the Park's rich

ON THE COVER: The Conservancy's **Matthew Brown** and Smithsonian fellow Sean White collected more than 4,000 leaves for the project. **Kristina Nelson**, the Conservancy's soil lab technician, works on a fish count. **Bill Berliner**, associate vice president of horticulture, inspects a sample. **Russell Fredericks**, chief of operations, measures one of the Park's oldest and largest English Elms. Above: **Regina Alvarez**, director of horticulture, photographs a species.



Cover Story: **The Urban Laboratory** continued

landscapes and wildlife for important scientific data. Bird and fish surveys, studies of groundwater and pollination, identification of tree species — it all happens right here in New York City's "backyard."

"Maybe this is a secret, but if you go down a tiny pathway in one area of the Park, all of a sudden you see these three Dawn Redwoods," says Sean White, a post-doctoral fellow with the Smithsonian Institution who, along with a team of researchers, used the Park as a leaf-collection

site in 2006 to create a digital, hand-held field guide.

"I had no idea there were any Redwoods in New York," he said. "They were spectacularly beautiful." The Dawn Redwood is the smaller cousin of the celebrated gigantic Redwoods of the West Coast.

That diversity is part of why White and a research team, funded by the National Science Foundation, spent a week in the Park with Conservancy staff. Together they collected 4,320 leaves from 144 species of trees. They added

the data to their growing library of leaf images — a collection that is now the foundation for the prototype of a hand-held digital field guide that White developed as part of his graduate work while at Columbia University. The aim is for users of the device — botanists and nature enthusiasts alike — to immediately access a wealth of information about a tree, just by snapping a picture of its leaf. A computer application will take that image, compare it to the field guide database, and retrieve likely matches — all while

the user is standing, for example, in front of the mystery tree in the Ramble that they'd like to know more about. It's exciting technology, with deep roots in Central Park, that researchers are confident will eventually be available for mass use.

In the meantime, if you look a bit closer on your next visit, you'll definitely now see the Park's lush greens and eclectic wildlife for what it really is: an unexpected encounter with science, right in the heart of this busy City.

Central Park's Trees Helping Us All Breathe Easier

Central Park is often called the lungs of New York City — and a new study at Columbia University goes a long way in explaining just why.

As much as 14,000 pounds of carbon dioxide is absorbed by the Park every 24 hours during the spring, summer, and fall seasons, according to research by Wade McGillis, a professor of geochemistry at Columbia. The McGillis study clearly shows

that the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed during the day is very different from that at night, and that weather has a significant impact on these fluctuations. His findings ultimately show that the science of climate is more complex than the simple equation of carbon dioxide in, oxygen out.

So what exactly does 14,000 pounds of carbon dioxide mean? Consider the average

car emits just over 33 pounds of carbon dioxide each day, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

McGillis reached his figure by studying data collected by two carbon dioxide sensors located in and near Central Park — one at the National Weather Service station at Belvedere Castle, and the other at a facility on 116th Street in Harlem. He calculated

the difference in absorption at the two locations over a structured period of time to reach his findings.

"Because of the diversity of landscapes and topography throughout the Park, we need to get more sensors installed so that we can develop a higher resolution picture," says McGillis. "It's like adding more pixels to your pictures."



Hollywood Cool Heats Up at Rumsey Playfield

Get your cool on this summer during the 7th Annual Central Park Film Festival, sponsored by Bloomberg.

The theme of this year's line-up of free screenings is "Be Cool" — celebrating hot Hollywood and its coolest stars. The five-day festival, held outdoors at Rumsey Playfield, runs from

Tuesday, August 18 through Saturday, August 22. Gates open to the public at 6:00 pm. Films start at 8:00 pm (rain or shine) and are closed-captioned. Enter the Park at Fifth Avenue and 69th Street. For more information, visit www.centralparknyc.org/filmfestival

Sponsored by **Bloomberg**

Tuesday **Sex & The City** (2008)
Wednesday **Shaft** (1971)
Thursday **Ocean's 11** (2001)
Friday **Twilight** (2008)
Saturday **Viewers' Choice!**

Vote for your choice from the following at www.7online.com (July 21 through August 21)

Men in Black (1997)
Goldfinger (1965)
Desperately Seeking Susan (1985)

Invest in the Conservancy – and Your Future

With large market declines and unheard of volatility, many investors have turned to the relative safety of short-term government notes, FDIC insured savings accounts, and certificates of deposit (CDs).

However, rates on 90-day Treasury bills have declined to nearly 0% and the average return on a one-year CD was only 2% in recent months.

Current annuity payout rates:

| AGE | RATE |
|-----|------|
| 60 | 5.0 |
| 70 | 5.7 |
| 80 | 7.1 |

(June 20)
An alternative for those seeking higher rates of return with greater stability is a charitable gift annuity with the Central Park Conservancy. A gift annuity is a simple contract between a donor and the Conservancy

whereby, in exchange for the donor's contribution, the Conservancy promises to make fixed, guaranteed payments for the life of the donor.

An annuity allows you to make a generous charitable gift for the benefit of Central Park, while simultaneously earning an attractive income-tax deduction, a higher return compared to Treasury bills, savings accounts, or CDs, and the security afforded by guaranteed income in uncertain times.

For more information call the Conservancy's Office of Planned Giving at **212-310-6645**, or email at plannedgiving@centralparknyc.org

gatherings

Conservancy gatherings with our friends and supporters.

Kenny Callaghan, Sandra Lee, Danny Meyer, and Conservancy President and Central Park Administrator Douglas Blonsky at **Taste of Summer**, June 3.



A Conversation on the Park

Vice President of Capital Projects Chris Nolan (in tie) leads Conservators on a tour of the Ramble and Lake shoreline, May 11.

Cheryl Neldon, Abigail Healy, Kate Moutenot, Evan Uhlick, Terri Coppersmith, and Mary Taylor at the Annual **I Heart Central Park** hosted by The Greensward Circle, March 19.



Martha Stewart and Conservancy President and Central Park Administrator Douglas Blonsky at the **Frederick Law Olmsted luncheon**, May 6.



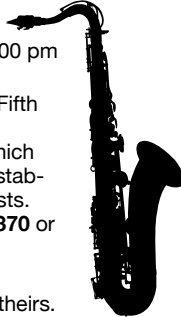
Join Us

Enjoy special events like these and member discounts while helping the Conservancy restore, preserve, and maintain Central Park.

Learn about the benefits of membership and how you can help Central Park at www.centralparknyc.org

Harlem Meer Performance Festival presented by CHASE

Sundays through Sept. 6 • 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Charles A. Dana Discovery Center
(Inside the Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues)
Join us for this popular concert series, which features the best in local emerging and established Latin, Jazz, World, and Gospel artists. For a complete schedule, call **212-860-1370** or visit www.centralparknyc.org/hmpf



Chess Lecture/ Simul

Saturdays,
July 18 & August 8
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
**Chess & Checkers
House** (mid-Park
at 64th Street)

Join us for our free exciting summer series of chess lectures and “Simul” (simultaneous) games conducted by local Grandmaster Larry Christiansen in July, and FIDE Master Asa Hoffman in August. Learn their secrets to improve your game and then test your own skills



against theirs. Players of any age with an official rating of 1000 or better can participate. Space is limited. Register at www.centralparknyc.org/chess

CONCERT & CRAFTS

Great Jazz On The Great Hill

Saturday, July 11
Family Craft Workshop:
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
**The Peter Jay Sharp
Children’s Glade**
Jazz Concert:
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
The Great Hill (enter the

Park for both locations at 106th Street and Central Park West).

Jazzmobile, Inc. and the Central Park Conservancy come together again for the annual Great Jazz on the Great Hill event, bringing you a family craft workshop with Stephanie Crease, author of *Duke Ellington: His Life in Jazz*, and the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, and an exciting line up of performances to follow on the Great Hill. For more information call **212-860-1370**.

Run For Central Park

Saturday, July 18
9:00 am Run/Walk
10:30 am Kids Races
Join this four-mile run/walk that benefits the Central Park Conservancy. Runners of all ages and fitness levels are welcome. Presented in partnership with New York Road Runners. For information, fees, and to register, visit www.centralparknyc.org/runCP. Online registration closes at 11:59 pm on Tuesday, July 14.

Sandbox Programs

Monday – Friday, July 6 – August 14
11:00 am – 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Ages 3 – 8
It’s party time! This summer, celebrate the 20th birthday of Sandbox Programs in **20 playgrounds throughout Central Park**. Central Park Brass, storyteller Dan Kitrosser, Moey’s Music Party, and the Museum for African Art will lead Sandbox Music, Sandbox Stories, Sandbox Sing-Along, and NEW Sandbox Dance programs in all 20 locations. For a complete schedule, please visit www.centralparknyc.org/sandbox

A Clearing In The Forest

Select Saturdays and
Sundays, through Sept. 27
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
**The Peter Jay Sharp
Children’s Glade and
Great Hill**
(Inside the Park at West
106th Street)
Multicultural fun in Central Park’s most intimate natural playground. Pack a picnic lunch, and enjoy performances and workshops featuring live music, dance, puppets, and storytelling. For a complete schedule, please visit www.centralparknyc.org/clearing or call **212-860-1370**.



CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY

212-310-6600
Central Park Conservancy
14 East 60th Street
New York, NY 10022

Our mission

The mission of the Central Park Conservancy is to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park in partnership with the public.

The Conservancy aspires to build a great organization that sets the standard for and spreads the principles of world-class park management — emphasizing environmental excellence — to improve the quality of open space for the enjoyment of all New Yorkers.

The Conservancy is committed to sustaining this operating model to provide a legacy for future generations of Central Park users.

