

20 Dunbar Brownies Attend Laurel Outing

LAUREL, Del., Oct. 20—(Special). —About 20 Brownies of the Paul Lawrence Dunbar School attended an outing at Jason Beach near Laurel Monday.

A picnic was provided by the leader, Miss Amelia A. Games and her assistants, Mrs. Susan C. Hyland, Mrs. Deloris Hyland and Mrs. Francis Bennette, all of Laurel.

The Brownie troop, which has been organized for less than a year, has increased its membership with six new members and has lost five, who are now intermediate scouts, under the leadership of Mrs. Louise Cooper.

A troop committee has been organized this fall to assist Miss Games. Its members are Miss Shirley Green, Mrs. Necoilia Thomas, and Mrs. Alonzo Shockley, Jr., principal.

"20 Dunbar Brownies Attend Laurel Outing"



Clipped By:

DelawarePublicArchives

Tue, Jan 17, 2023

Agnes Lou Selby Morris

DAGSBORO — Agnes Lou Helen Selby Morris, 82, of Dagsboro, died of cardiac arrest Friday in Beebe Hospital, Lewes. She had been living with a granddaughter, Theresa Johnson.

Mrs. Morris was a former resident of Laurel. She and her late husband, Andrew Selby, were school bus contractors with the Laurel public school district from 1940 until 1957. They also operated a general store at Lowes Crossroads from 1940 until 1961, and a concession stand at Jason Beach, now Trap Pond, from the late 1950s until the early 1960s.

She attended Laurel Adult Day Care Center, and was a member of Ross Point AME Zion Church.

Her first husband, Andrew Selby, died in 1963. Her second husband, Otho Morris, died in 1974. Her only son, Paul Selby Sr. of Laurel, died in January. In addition to Mrs. Johnson, she is survived by two brothers, Paul Purnell of Pomona Park, Fla., and Harley Purnell of Harrington; a sister, Mildred E. Shelton of Millsboro; 16 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Ross Point AME Zion Church near Laurel, where friends may call tonight from 6 to 8. Burial will be in the adjoining church cemetery.

"Agnes Lou Selby Morris"



Clipped By:

DelawarePublicArchives

Tue, Jan 17, 2023

Beginner Swimming Scheduled at Laurel

LAUREL, Del., July 19—(Special).—The Red Cross will sponsor swimming classes for beginners at Jason Beach near Laurel, starting Monday and continuing through Friday from 1 to 3 p. m. William L. Shockley of Bridgeville will instruct.

A bus will pick up the children at Owens Corner at noon each day, and at the Paul Laurence Dunbar School at 12:30. Mrs. Rocelia J. Allen, recreation director of the summer program at the Dunbar School, will accompany the group each day.

"Beginner Swimming Scheduled at Laurel"



Clipped By:

DelawarePublicArchives

Tue, Jan 17, 2023

NO SWIMMING

Closing of Trap Pond ends two generations at favorite swim hole

Trap Pond State Park east of Laurel stood firmly for more than two generations as the swimming hole of choice for thousands of Sussex countians and an equal number of campers from Maryland and Pennsylvania. This week, the state Division of Parks and Recreation announced swimming will no longer be allowed.

WHERE WE STAND
The least the state could do is install a spray playground for the children.

Parks officials attribute the decision to ongoing health and safety concerns that reached a critical level in 1997. That's the year life guards were no longer on duty. Because the swimming area was often closed after heavy rains due to high bacteria levels, the state experienced difficulty attracting qualified lifeguards. It became a "swim at your own risk" recreation area and attendance dwindled.

Trap Pond's history as a Sussex County swimming area reaches back to the days of segregation when nearby Jason Beach was reserved for "colored only."

With emphasis today on water quality monitoring and concerns over state liability with un-guarded beaches, Trap Pond as swimmers knew it is gone.

Fortunately, other longtime activities like boating, hiking and kayaking will continue. But the swimming ban ends a grand era of family outings and picnics on hot July days. We hope the Division of Parks will at least follow through with its proposal to install a spray playground for the region's children.

"Closing of Trap Pond Ends Two Generation at Favorite Swim Hole"



Delaw

The members and officers of the Delaware State College Alumni, Sussex County Branch will hold its annual picnic Saturday, June 30 at Jason Beach.

SELBYVILLE

"Delaware State College Alumni, Sussex County Branch Annual Picnic at Jason Beach"

Splash pad to bring water recreation back to Trap Pond



A rendering of a possible splash pad concept for Trap Pond State Park. DELAWARE STATE PARKS PHOTO

MAKING A SPLASH



Shannon Marvel McNaught
Delaware News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Trap Pond in Laurel has served many purposes in its centuries of existence, but for the past 22 years, it's been missing a key element: recreational-quality water.

The pond closed to swimmers around the millennium due to frequently high bacteria levels. Today, there are no publicly owned pools or other recreational water facilities in western Sussex County, according to the 2022 Trap Pond State Park Master Plan.

That's about to change. Following over a decade of efforts by stakeholders, the state has provided \$2.5 million for the construction of a splash pad at Trap Pond.

See WATER, Page 4A



A canoe glides amid the bald cypress trees and lily pads of Trap Pond State Park. The southern part of Trap Pond is home to the thickest stands of bald cypress. DANIEL LYNN/HANYSPECIAL TO DELAWARE NEWS JOURNAL

—GETTY IMAGES

"Making a Splash" "Water" "Jason Beach Historical Marker Unveiling"



De



"Man About Town"



Clipped By:

DelawarePublicArchives
Tue, Jan 17, 2023

Negroes Use Beach At Trap

No Whites Swim
At Headquarters

From the Sussex Bureau

LAUREL — Negro children swam yesterday at Trap Pond's traditionally white Headquarters Beach. It was reported that no whites swam there yesterday.

Two carloads of Negro youngsters from Seaford went to the beach where a group of young Negroes was turned away from a Red Cross swimming class Monday.

About 20 other Negro children yesterday received swimming lessons at Jason Beach, the Negro beach about a mile across the pond from Headquarters. J. Milton Moyer of Dagsboro was the Red Cross instructor.

Charles E. Brogdon, a Seaford Jaycees playground instructor who was with the youngsters at Headquarters Beach, was asked if their visit was an integration test.

"They just decided to come down to take a swim," Brogdon said.

Swimming lessons have been canceled at Headquarters, according to Sylvan Silver, state Red Cross publicity director.

Silver said the parks commission made the decision. Peter Geldof Jr., state parks superintendent, said he only advised Moyer to cancel the class.

"Negroes Use Beach At Trap"



Clipped By:

DelawarePublicArchives

Tue, Jan 17, 2023

Outing for the Aged

SEAFORD, July 17—(Special).—About 30 aged people, including nine from Seaford, were guests recently of the Rogers Gunby Post of the American Legion of Laurel, at an all-day outing at Jason Beach, Trappe Pond. Bradford White of near Seaford, is post commander.

"Outing for the Aged"



Clipped By:

DelawarePublicArchives

Tue, Jan 17, 2023



"Sands: Segregated Beaches Made Good Places for Revivals, 'Frolics'"



D

Emailed 6/10/21



121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. N | Dover, DE 19901 | (302) 744-5000

Historical Marker Application

Proposed Marker Information (required info is in red)

Suggested Marker Topic: **Date of Application:**

Preferred Location (Please provide the exact address or GPS Coordinates):

Town:

County:

The reason this location was chosen:

The historic location of Jason Beach. A public parking area will make the sign easily accesible for viewing by the public.

Property Information

Public or Private Property:

Owner's Permission (if private):

Your Contact Information

Full Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Organization (if applicable):

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zipcode:

*Please complete both sections found on Page 2 of this application before submitting.
Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or considered.*

Funding Statement

Historical markers are funded on an individual basis by local legislators. Financial support must be obtained from a local Senator or Representative *after* the marker application has been approved by the Delaware Public Archives. Once support is gained, the legislator will notify the Archives and we will move forward with the production of a marker.

DPA Office Use Only

Date Received:

Approved by:

Date Approved:



121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. N | Dover, DE 19901 | (302) 744-5000

Historical Marker Application Supplemental Information

Please include or attach the following information

1. Statement of Significance

On an attached sheet or document or in the text box below, please explain in a thorough but concise typed statement why the proposed subject is important and why it should be commemorated with a marker. Please refer to the [guidelines and criteria](#) when writing your statement.

Jason Beach, located at Trap Pond State Park in Laurel, Delaware was named for Dr. William C Jason (1859-1941), longtime president of Delaware State College (now Delaware State University).

Prior to 1963, Jason Beach was a segregated swimming and recreation area within Trap Pond State Park. Jason Beach was used for African Americans, while Headquarters Beach on the other side of the pond was used by White visitors.

In July of 1963, three bus loads of African American children were turned away from Headquarters Beach. This event precipitated outcry from the Red Cross, the NAACP, and the public. This event forced the State Park Commission to directly address both official and non-official segregation policies.

2. Background Information

On an attached sheet or document or in the text box below, please provide a typed list of relevant facts, notes, and/or information pertaining to the proposed marker subject. Please include citations to the resources you used to research this topic. This information will be helpful in researching and writing the marker text. Please note: DPA staff will edit proposed marker text to conform to research and format standards, including space limitations.

See Attached.
 Delaware State Park History- Trap Pond the Proving Ground- Jason Beach.

Save & Email, Print, or Clear this form:

Save for Email

Print

Clear



State of Delaware
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

April 15, 2021

Delaware Public Archives

Re: Historic Marker- Jason Beach, Trap Pond State Park

Dear Madam/Sir,

I would like to offer my recommendation and support of application for a historic marker by the Trap Pond Partners.

The site of Jason Beach, now known as Cypress Point, in Trap Pond State Park holds significant relevance relating to the civil rights movement, state parks history, and Dr. William C. Jason, champion of educational equity in Delaware.

The Delaware Division of State Parks, Trap Pond State Park, and members of the local community are in full support of the marker commemorating Jason Beach and the pivotal event that took place in July 1963.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions on our support of the marker.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michaelina F. Jones".

Michaelina F. Jones
Park Superintendent
Trap Pond State Park
(302) 875-5153

State Park Anti-Bias Stand Set

Commission Stotes
Policy After Pond
Swim Class Incident

The State Park Commission has set down its unqualified non-segregationist stand on the use of recreational facilities under its jurisdiction.

The statement, issued yesterday in association with the State Human Relations Commission, was precipitated by last week's incident at Trap Pond near Laurel where it was claimed Negro children were barred from a swimming class.

Both the Delaware Red Cross, which conducts the classes, and Thomas W. Murray, Jr., park commission chairman, disclaimed responsibility for the incident of the swim session. State Parks Superintendent Peter Gohal Jr. said the action was advised, not ordered.

THE INCIDENT occurred on Monday when two leaders of Negro children from Redwood arrived at Headquarters Beach on Trap Pond, traditionally reserved for whites. They were said to have asked to join the class, which was traditionally used by Negroes, in about a mile across the pond.

On Thursday it was reported that Negro children were the only ones among either of those Sussex County beaches.

The text of the State Park Commission's statement released yesterday follows:

"NO AREA under the jurisdiction of the State Park Commission, including Trap Pond, is or will be administered as a segregated beach."

"The Park Commission agrees with the State Human Relations Commission that it is obviously the right of every citizen of the state, without regard to his race or color, to use fully the recreational facilities provided, maintained and administered with state funds and under state auspices."

The statement was signed by Murray and the Rev. Dr. Henry H. Hardest, chairman of the State Human Relations Commission.

"State Park Anti-Bias Stand Set"



Clipped By:

DelawarePublicArchives
Tue, Jan 17, 2023

Foliage Abounds at Trap Pond



Two visitors idle under trees at Trap Pond, state-operated recreational area, five miles east of Laurel on Route 26, while others take advantage of the lake's bathing facilities on the 1,000-acre recreational area.

Trap Pond, Newest State Park, Invites Bathers, Fishermen

1,000-Acre Spot Near Laurel, Leased From U. S., Gets Many Improvements, Including Extra Beach; Trailer Park Area for Campers

Trap Pond, a thousand-acre recreational area with a hundred acres of lake and streams will be a mecca for thousands of Delawareans and out-of-state visitors this year, now that facilities have been increased and improved by the Delaware State Park Commission. The area is five miles east of Laurel on Route 26.

The tract was federally owned until last year, when the General Assembly passed legislation authorizing the State Park Commission to accept Trap Pond from the government on a 99-year lease. There is a stipulation that any revenue derived by the commission must be re-invested for further improvements on the tract, according to John C. Hazzard, commission chairman.

Gov. Elbert S. Carvel, recently visited the improved area with a party which included Robert W. Wheelwright, Wilmington landscape architect and advisor to the commission; Senator Howard H. Dickerson, Laurel; Richard S. Snyder, state soil conservationist; John Keller of the Soil Conservation

North Dakota Names Langer

Republican Senator Seen Virtually Certain Of Reelection This Fall

FARGO, N. D., June 25 (AP)—U. S. Senator William Langer (R-ND), yesterday won re-nomination in North Dakota's bitterly fought primary election.

(See TRAP POND—Page 8)

"Trap Pond"



Clipped By:

DelawarePublicArchives
Tue, Jan 17, 2023

Governor Inspects New State Park



Trap Pond

Gov. Edward W. Connor (left) inspects a recent pond in Trap Pond State Park. The pond, one of several new ponds being built by the State Park Commission, is expected to be opened by the end of the summer. The pond is expected to be used by thousands of Delawareans and non-residents during the summer. With the Governor on the site were several state and federal officials.

Trap Pond

(Continued from Page One)

Secretary of State Harris B. McDowell, Jr.; Col. Vernon B. Derrington, Jr.; Capt. Vernon B. Derrington, Jr.; and other members of the State Park Commission, including Chairman Miller, a member of the State Park Commission, and other officials.

Charles H. Wiggins, who has served in that capacity since 1948, said the pond is expected to be opened by the end of the summer. The pond is expected to be used by thousands of Delawareans and non-residents during the summer. With the Governor on the site were several state and federal officials.

Good News Fishing

While no boats are available at the pond, according to Mr. Wiggins, fishing is expected to be good. The pond is expected to be used by thousands of Delawareans and non-residents during the summer. With the Governor on the site were several state and federal officials.

Not Even Mired

CHAPPEL, N. C. (AP)—A man who was mired in mud for several hours in North Carolina, was rescued by a group of men who dug him out. The man was found in a field of mud and was unable to move. The men who rescued him were from a nearby town and they dug him out with shovels and axes.

5-Cent Coffee Wins

HANOVER, N. H. (AP)—The 5-cent coffee won the contest for the best coffee in the state. The contest was held in Hanover, N. H., and the 5-cent coffee was the winner. The contest was held to determine the best coffee in the state and the 5-cent coffee was the winner.

Hospitals Elsewhere

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)—The city of Atlanta has a number of hospitals. The city has a number of hospitals and the city is known for its hospitals. The city has a number of hospitals and the city is known for its hospitals.

"Trap Pond"



Clipped By:

DelawarePublicArchives
Tue, Jan 17, 2023