

Friends of Fort Trumbull State Park
Activities Report, 2007
October 17, 2007

- The FFTSP initiated a docent program. We held two training sessions which attracted about 15 people; these members served as guides for school groups and other tour groups during the park season.
- The Friends purchased a bench in the memory of one of our original members. The bench was dedicated at a Sunday afternoon tea and was placed outside the Gift Shop where it was utilized by many customers of the shop throughout the season.
- We continued the tradition of participating in the annual Maritime Service Memorial ceremony on Memorial Day weekend and hosted a box lunch offering in the Conference Center..
- One of the works in progress is the procurement of designer shades for four windows of the Visitors' Center. These shades will contain images and text describing the features of the Visitor Center to incoming tourists.
- The Friends worked with a CT-based Civil War re-enactment group, the Topographic Engineers, under the leadership of James Matthews, on a couple of projects to enhance the Fort.
 - ü On 22 May 2007, the Topographic Engineers conducted a cannon reinstallation program as part of the national Maritime Day ceremonies. The Howitzer cannon was capable of firing a 24-lb. solid shot out to a range of several hundred yards. Around 1917, four of the original Fort Trumbull cannons were transferred to the town of Ledyard to enhance their Civil War monument. Unfortunately, the guns were forgotten and because of their extreme weight, they sank into the ground. Through the efforts of Mr. Matthews and Park Superintendent Jonathan Lincoln, it was decided that one of the four guns would be transferred back to Fort Trumbull, and the other three would remain in Ledyard. The single Howitzer was moved into storage, cleaned and painted in time for the Maritime Day ceremonies.
 - ü The Topographic Engineers also have been busy building period furniture for three rooms in the Fort. This project provides visitors to the Fort with an appreciation of what it meant to live and work in the Fort.
- In July, the FFTSP financially supported a band concert in the Fort by a Civil War military brass band. This group, which is comprised of musicians from east of the Mississippi River, tours the US each summer giving concerts with a full sized military brass band complete with period uniforms and musical compositions appropriate to that era. The band made three visits to eastern CT this year and Fort Trumbull was privileged to be one of the three sites. The bank attracted over 100 people on a sunny July Saturday afternoon. The concert was held in the courtyard of the Fort with the band situated in one corner. The masonry of the Fort generated an outstanding acoustical sound to an enthusiastic audience. We look forward to more musical events and will actively solicit future performances.