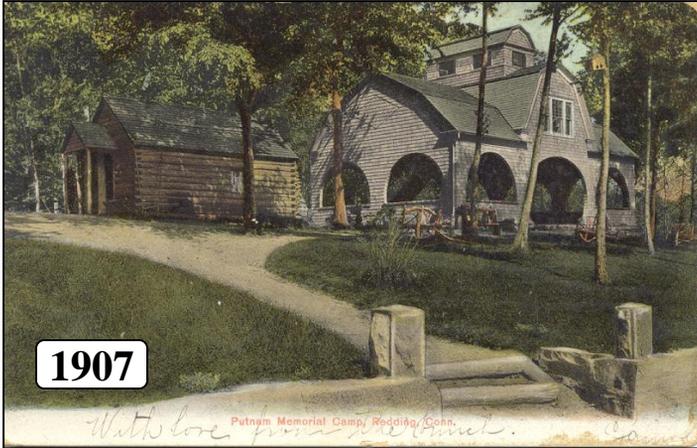


# April 2006 NewsLetter

From Pavilion To Visitor Center - 112 Years



## Visitor Center Grand Opening?



Bethel 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman, Alice Hutchison, and Redding 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman, Natalie Ketcham read the “Whereas Commemoration” at the opening.

Park Interpretive Guide, Col. Carlton Kline, gives a brief history of the park.

Natalie Ketcham, Jeanine Herman, Gina McCarthy, and Gov. Rell are assisted in the ribbon-cutting by youngest FAN, Elizabeth Herman.

*After all the fan fare and celebration was over ..... the brand new Visitor Center doors were locked. There is no budget to staff the new facility. (See Meeting Notes on the next page.)*

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The Nathan Hale clan with Governor Rell. Nate is the Park Supervisor for Putnam.



Sue Wolf of the *Redding Pilot*, Jeanine Herman, FANs president, Elizabeth Herman, Nathan Hale and Governor Rell.



Private James Freebairn talks with FANs Treasurer, Rosemary Payne at reception.



Nancy Cowles at left with Schuyler Merritt and Rosemary Payne. Jim Freebairn in back.

## April FAN's Meeting



The April meeting of the Friends group was held on Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> at the park Visitor Center.

### Discussions held included:

1. Rosemary Payne covered the current Treasurer's Report
2. Nancy Cowles reported that she is sending out invitations to area schools for participation in next May's *Living History School Days* program.
3. Jeanine Herman and Nathan Hale gave an update and recap of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Visitor Center.
4. The positive climate still in play from the grand opening celebration was dampened considerably when Park Supervisor Nathan Hale announced that the new Visitor Center is closed, and would remain closed until further notice. There is no budget for staffing the center. There is no talk of increasing staff for next season. Furnishings, audio-visual equipment, slide shows, new brochures, new maps ..... all are limbo. The FANs does not hold Nate responsible for this latest turn of events. Members are advised to review last month's newsletter regarding the sorry state of Connecticut State Parks budgets, including Putnam Park.
5. Karl Epple proposed hiring (with possible grant funding) an outside consultant specializing in museum/interpretive management and graphic expertise to lay out a plan for Putnam Park. A long range plan with cost estimates are needed to operate the center in a professional manner.



Old Put cries out that he wants his new Visitor Center opened !

## Next Meeting

The next FAN's Meeting will be on **Tuesday Evening November 8th** at the new **Visitor Center** at Putnam Park.

The meeting will start at **7:00pm**. The monthly meetings will now be on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** of each month at the park.