

Crew works hard to keep Codorus looking good

By MARIA MAURO
Evening Sun Reporter

HANOVER — Codorus State Park wouldn't be the same without them.

They are the park's six-member maintenance crew, and for them the work never stops.

MONDAY PROFILE

"You name it, we do it," said William Altland, the park's maintenance supervisor.

"If it wouldn't be for me, and especially this crew, I don't think the park would be in the shape it's in," Altland said.

"It's more to the park than mowing grass and cleaning facilities."

"Each guy has his own responsibilities. We work together as a team," he said. "What one doesn't know, the other does."

"It may not seem much to the public. They don't really see the hidden things," Altland said.

"Maintenance is constant. It just never stops," he said.

"The most common thing we're asked is, 'What do you do in the winter,'" said John Weaver, the buildings crewman.

Any crew member is quick to detail a number of winter jobs. Mostly, preventive maintenance and major repairs are performed then. Throughout the summer the crew keeps up with routine maintenance.

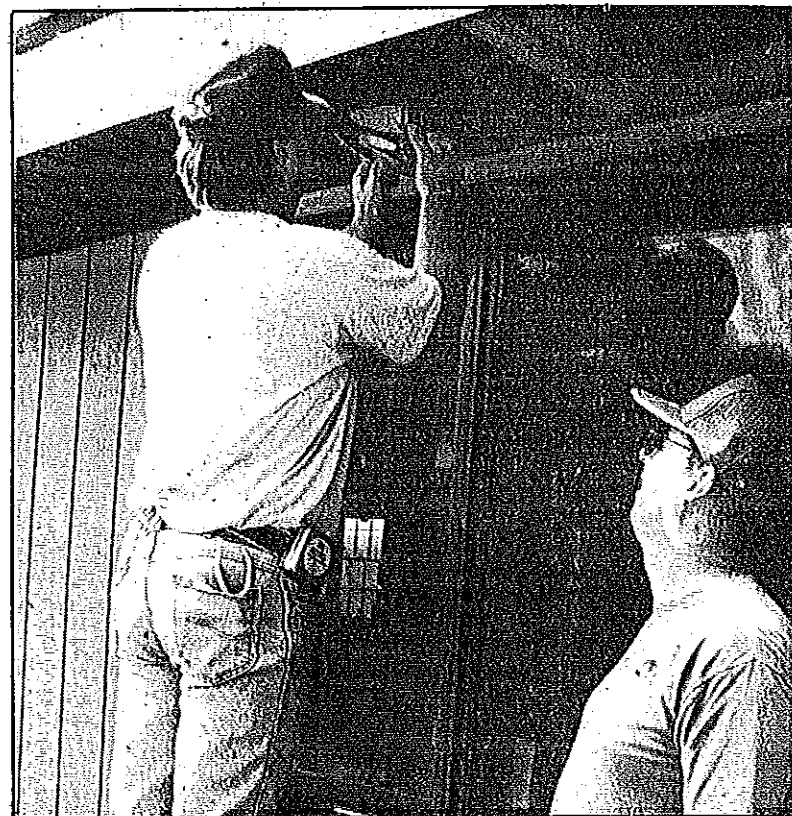
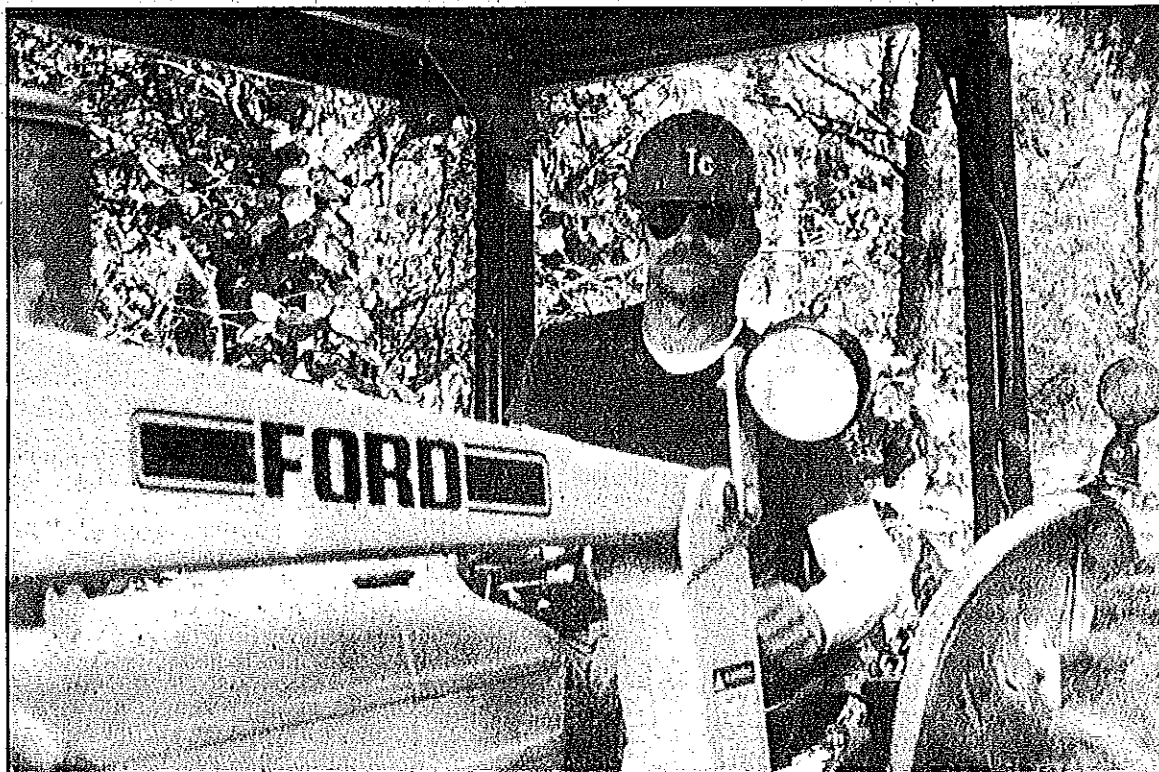
The 11-member seasonal crew helps with those jobs and is responsible for mowing, painting, staining, trimming and assisting the full-time crew when necessary.

It takes three seasonal crew members from 1½ to 2 weeks to mow the 250 acres of grass at the park a single time.

The visitor's center, slated to open later this season, was totally renovated by the crew.

"We spent a lot of time on that. It's well needed," Altland said. "That building showed the talents this crew has. We revamped that whole building."

John Weaver and Don Hutchinson were installing soffit and fascia



Tim Conrad, above, operates a tractor as he mows seven miles of horse trails at Codorus State Park. In the bottom photo, John Weaver, left, and Don Hutchinson install a light fixture at the new visitor's center. The men are part of a five-man full-time maintenance crew at the park.

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in June at the new center.

Hutchinson, usually in charge of maintaining all the park's vehicles, was helping Weaver.

"They usually break 'em quicker than I can fix 'em," Hutchinson quipped.

"With just having five of us here, we get to do a little of everything," he said.

And one thing they all have in common is enjoying working in the outdoors.

"I like being able to be outside on nice days. On lousy days you have inside work," said Steve Trostle, a 15-year park veteran. Trostle takes care of the five water wells and the sewer system in the park, including the filter systems for the swimming pool.

In the winter, he rebuilds pumps and renovates the systems.

"Our management lets us be independent," Trostle said.

Tim Conrad also likes this aspect of the job. As the groundsman keeps the seven miles of riding trails mowed and is responsible for painting lots and spraying. He also takes care of the poison ivy.

"It's a lot of work for just guys," Conrad said.

The fifth crewman, Thor Rhinehart, takes care of the dog. He was injured in an auto accident on June 14, but is expected back to work in a few weeks.