

Friends of the Outlet, Inc.

Summer 2017

Special Interest Articles

Fish Tales: Stocking the Outlet Creek

Tick All the Right Boxes to Avoid Ticks

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FOTO Board of Directors:

Gwen Chamberlain,
President

Dan Condella, Vice-
President

Dave Reeve, Treasurer

Peg Thompson, Secretary

Dr. Chuck McClure,
Communications

Leon Fontier

Kristi Hoag

Thomas McGuigan

Philip Rahr

Steven Stork

Nancy Tharp

John Warner

Carol Worth



Fish Tales: Stocking the Outlet Creek

Marcus Whitman sixth grade students do a lot of work each year when the time comes to release young trout into the Keuka Outlet.

The Environmental Classroom Opportunity program, which has been offered to Marcus Whitman students since 1997, provided a work crew of 23 youngsters who hauled buckets of flopping fish to dump into the Keuka Outlet.

ECO students have worked as a team with a crew from the Department of Environmental Conservation's Bath Fish Hatchery, Trout Unlimited, and Friends of the Outlet for 11 years.

Over the course of a few hours, the students helped release 980 fish – 400 2-

year-old fish from Caledonia and 580 younger fish from Bath, according to Gary Wilsey of Trout Unlimited.

This is just one of many environmental experiences the students learn from during the school year. The ECO program is a "curriculum of choice" for sixth-grade students.

The students' course of study incorporates many "hands-on" activities involving watershed study, business enterprise, field and forest flora and fauna, environmental issues, outdoor recreation, service, and community.

Throughout the school year, students keep an extensive journal documenting their activities. To prepare for their visit to the Outlet Trail,

the students researched the history of the Keuka Outlet, the Crooked Lake Canal, Fall Brook Railroad, the Friends of the Outlet, and Trout Unlimited, in addition to visiting the Bath Fish Hatchery.

After the students finished pouring buckets of fish into the water, they gathered on the grassy hillside overlooking the waterfalls at the Seneca Mill site and listened as their teacher, Malcom MacKenzie, described how water powered the industrial mills along the outlet.

Following the on-site experience, students continued their learning through interviews of people involved with the project, poetry writing, descriptions of historic artifacts, and assembling a Trail fact sheet.





Upcoming Events. . . .

July 12, 2017 –

Concert in the Park
6:30 PM
415 Liberty St.
Penn Yan, NY

Support FOTO through the purchase of home baked cookies,

July 15, 2017 –

FOTO Photo Event
9:30 - 11:30 AM
Seneca Mills Falls Parking Lot

July 19, 2017 –

Quarterly Meeting
7:00 PM
Lyons National Bank

The meeting is open to anyone interested in the Keuka Outlet Trail and Friends of the Outlet.

July 22, 2017 –

FOTO BBQ Fundraiser
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Oak Hill Bulk Foods

September 16, 2017 –

Walk for Water Walk-a-thon
9:00 AM
Water Street Boat Launch

FOTO Photo Event

"A click of the shutter, a crank of the film, and you've caught forever a significant bit of life." - Willis Peterson

Enjoy a **two hour morning stroll** on the Trail with professional photographer Steve Knapp, of Keukaview Photography. Join us to learn techniques to take stunning photographs and capture images of which you will be proud.

Even though the Trail is filled with awesome scenery, sometimes it is not so easy to translate that beauty into an awesome photo.

This event will help **photographers of all levels** portray the stunning beauty of the Trail, preserving those special memories and moments from a life outdoors.

Participants will gather at **Seneca Mills parking lot,**

beginning at **9:30 AM on Saturday, July 15th.**

As you hike, Steve will also pass along interesting tidbits of Trail history and geology.

Bring your camera – Any kind of camera will work.

For more information and in case of questionable weather, **contact Steve Knapp at 607-243-7213.**

Walk for Water Walk-a-thon

Join in the fun, Saturday, September 16th at the Walk for Water Walk-a-thon on the Keuka Outlet Trail.

Bring your family and friends to raise funds and awareness for everyone's need for clean water.

Walk at your own pace and as far as you like, all the while enjoying the natural beauty of the Trail and exploring the history of a bygone era of water-

powered industry.

Join one of our fundraising super teams: The Seneca Lake and Keuka Lake teams will compete for the title of "Most Generous Lake."

Activities for all ages will add to the fun.

Check-in starts at 9:00 AM near the foot bridge at the Penn Yan Water Street Boat Launch Park.

The Walk-a-Thon will benefit the Friends of the Outlet, Penn Yan Rotary, and HTS Congo.

Get your walking shoes ready and don't miss this exciting event!

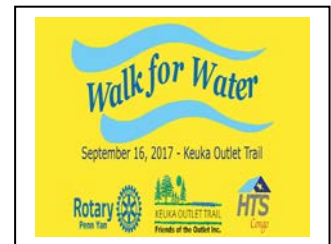


FOTO BBQ Fundraiser

Support the Friends of the Outlet (FOTO) and enjoy a tasty barbecue dinner!

FOTO members will be manning the barbecue concession at Oak Hill Bulk Foods on Saturday, July 22nd from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Each Saturday during the busy summer season, Oak Hill Bulk Foods offers charitable organizations an opportunity to benefit from the large number of customers that visit the local store. The concession offers barbecued chicken or pork dinners, hot dogs,

ice cream, and beverages.

FOTO will receive a portion of the proceeds for the day as well as promote the Trail and recruit members.

At least four volunteers will be needed. To volunteer, **call Gwen Chamberlain at 607-745-4790.**

Not a Member? Join Us!

YES, I'm joining other FRIENDS of the Keuka Outlet Trail!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

_____ Individual (\$20/year)

_____ Family (\$40/year)

_____ Booster (\$100/year)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Friends of the Outlet, Inc.

Send to: Friends of the Outlet, Inc. PO Box 65
Dresden, NY 14441

OR

PAY ELECTRONICALLY via PAY PAL

www.keukaoutlettrail.org

Birders' Paradise!

On Saturday, May 20, expert and novice birders hiked one mile of the Trail from the Dresden trailhead to Hopeton. Twenty-six species of birds were identified either by sight or sound. Members of both the Eaton Birding Society and FOTO enjoyed the morning outing listening, spotting, learning, and sharing.



Leader Lynn Donaldson shares information about the Baltimore Oriole with FOTO members Ted and Susan Carman.



Sighting a Gray Catbird.



A successful outing!



Trail Condition Form

On the Trail and notice something amiss?

Use the new Trail Condition Report Form now available

on our website, www.keukaoutlettrail.org.

Help us maintain the Trail by reporting any signage or building degradation or damage, erosion, flooding, blowdowns, overgrown

areas or any illegal incidents or usage.

Thank you for helping to keep the Keuka Outlet Trail in good condition!



Carry-In, Carry-Out

Thank you for being a steward of the Keuka Outlet Trail by taking an active role in keeping it clean and green. When we Carry-In/Carry-Out we help to improve the Trail.

- Taking responsibility for our waste encourages awareness of our impact on natural resources, and can prompt environmentally friendly behaviors.
- It fosters a partnership between visitors and the Trail by encouraging all visitors to help maintain a clean trail.

- Increases the safety of your visit by reducing the number of pests in/around picnic areas and along the Trail.
- It eliminates unsightly trash on the Trail that can detract from the beauty of the natural environment.
- Improves the health of wildlife by reducing their dependency on trash as a food source.

The Trail belongs to all of us, so just like our homes, it is our responsibility to care for it and protect it for generations to come.



Kudos to the Maintenance Committee!

Members of the committee have been hard at work.

The new gate at Milo Mills (on the left) was recently installed.

Benches (on the right) also are beginning to be set in place along the Trail.

Did You Know? A Trail Fun Fact

The big "W" on a cement pillar, located along the Trail, signaled the train conductor of the Fall Brook Railroad to blow his whistle.



Slow and Steady: Turtles on the Trail

Located between Milo Mills and Seneca Mills Falls, just past the Dresden 4-mile sign on the left hand side, is an area known by locals as Turtle Creek.

A quiet approach often yields a spectacular sighting of painted turtles basking in the warmth of the day.

These very aquatic animals reach about 6 inches along the shell.

Colorful yellow and red stripes on their neck and spots on the head can be seen when the turtle is basking. The dark carapace (top shell) is smooth and bordered with

red and yellow. The plastron (bottom shell) is bright yellow, with or without dark blotches, depending on the sub-species.

Males have long claws on their front feet; females have longer shells.

Painted turtles eat a variety

of invertebrates, tadpoles and vegetation, but will also scavenge carrion.

The painted turtle is commonly seen basking on warm summer days, usually on partly-submerged logs or rocks, but disappears into the water quickly when disturbed.



Tick All the Right Boxes to Avoid Ticks

Ticks are on the rise and they occur in more and more places.

Preventing tick bites is the first line of defense for keeping you safe.

Ticks latch on without much fanfare and are loaded with disease-causing pathogens. The following checklist provides everything you should know about ticks to stay disease-free.

- **Ticks crawl up** – most likely they latch onto your foot or leg and crawl up over your entire body. Ticks are programmed to try and attach around your head and neck where the skin is thinner and hosts have more trouble grooming.
- **All ticks come in small, medium and large sizes** – they hatch from eggs and develop

through three active stages (small – the size of sand grains; medium – the size of poppy seeds; large – the size of apple seeds).

- **Ticks carry disease-causing microbes** – Tick-transmitted infections are more common these days and much more likely to make you sick.
- **For most tick-borne diseases, you have at least 24 hours to find and remove a feeding tick before it transmits an infection** – many of the disease carrying microbes transmitted by ticks need a reactivation period in the tick once it begins to feed. The germs eventually make their way into the tick's salivary glands and the tick spits them into you while feeding.
- **The easiest and safest way to remove a tick is with a pointy tweezer** – grab the tick right down next to the skin and simply pull the tick out like a splinter. Don't worry if the mouthpart stays in your skin as long as you've got the rest of the tick by its head. Remember to save the tick and try to identify it.
- **Clothing with built-in tick repellent is best for preventing tick bites** – Wear clothing (shoes, socks, shorts or pants, and shirt) with permethrin tick repellent built-in. These commercially-treated clothes last through at least 70 washes.
- **Tick bites and tick-borne diseases are completely preventable** – wearing tick repellent clothing, treating pets every month with tick repellent spot-on products, getting into a habit of doing a quick body scan for attached poppy-seed sized or larger ticks, and pulling ticks off quickly and safely are all great actions for preventing tick bites.

“And the turtles of course...all the turtles are free, as turtles and, maybe, all creatures should be.”

- Dr. Seuss

“The idea of service leads to community.”

- Ludwig M. van der Rohe

Above and Beyond Award presented to:

- Norm Koek - FOTO Board Member 2014-2017
- Ivan Oberholtzer – FOTO Board Member 2011-2017
- Mickey Orr – FOTO Board Member 2011-2017

In recognition and deep appreciation for many hours of effort, selfless contributions, individual talents, and concerned dedication so generously given to the Keuka Outlet Trail.



Translating Vision into Reality

Peg Thompson has dedicated four years to the Friends of the Outlet as a Board of Director, Secretary, and most recently as President. The Trail has inspired her personally for many reasons and that inspiration has provided leadership direction toward future achievements.

“The outlet changes constantly, making it interesting no matter when it is visited or at what spot along the Trail. This is true all seasons of the year. The falls at the Seneca Mill site is particularly dramatic, both in winter when ice sometimes covers the falls and in summer when a gentle mist from the water drifts over the area.” The

ever-changing water and variety of plants, birds, and wildlife complete the appeal.

Peg delights in encounters with Trail users that express their blissful enjoyment of the Trail surroundings. She recalls a time last summer when a visitor walked to a spot where Seneca Mills Falls could easily be seen. The visitor threw her arms into the air and exclaimed, “Wow!”

That unbridled joy serves as motivation for Peg to lift the vision for the Trail to high sights. Her efforts are directed toward making the Trail a destination that can be experienced by anyone no matter how they are visiting the site.

Planned improvements such as signage, a better surface to walk, run, or bike on will enhance the total Trail experience. The Design Project has given the Board a wealth of ideas for enhancements of the Cascade area. Six acres adjacent to the Trail that was donated to FOTO in 2016 could also be developed, possibly as a dedicated bird watching area. “In the future, the Trail could become a resource for both visitors and local residents, offering many types of recreational activities as well as a view of the long history of Yates County as it is connected to this waterway.”

leadership
motivation
dedication
excellence
drive
discipline
passion
heart

Trail Receives McGowan Fund Grant

The Keuka Outlet Trail gratefully received a grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable fund last month. The \$2400 grant will be used to create and install one of the five interpretive signs planned for five different historic mill sites on the Trail. When these five foot signs are in place they will replace much of the patchwork of notices and signs currently in use. The interpretive signs will include a map of

the Trail, an historic photo of the site, a "story" about that specific site and a list of rules that will guide users to be good stewards of the Trail.

Rochester and the Finger Lakes form one of the McGowan Charitable Fund's six grant-making regions. The William G. McGowan Fund promotes, nurtures, and supports initiatives in three program areas: Education, Human

Services, and Healthcare and Medical Research.

For more information, please visit, www.williamgmcgowanfund.org.



Outlet Trail's History Hike

The weather was perfect for our very first history hike.

Volunteer and direct descendant of Abraham Wagener, founder of Penn Yan, George Reigelsperger, was stationed near Birkett Mills. He has a special interest in the mill because it was once owned by this same ancestor.

Board of Director, John Warner, was at Milo Mills, the site of a store and gristmill built in 1800 by John and Anna Lawrence. The store was one of the first in the area.

Peg Thompson, our past president, was located at Seneca Mills Falls where Yates County got its start when followers of Jemima

Wilkinson built the first mill here in 1790.

People who stopped to talk with the volunteers were happy to hear the information offered.

Look forward to future on-site opportunities to learn about the Trail history and visit our website at www.keukaoutlettrail.org.

FOTO Welcomes New Board Members

The Friends of the Outlet announces the appointment of three new members of its Board of Directors, as well as the full slate of officers and board members for 2017-18.

Joining the Board of Directors are Philip Rahr, Steven Stork, and John Warner. All three of our newest Board members embody the spirit of community and bring talent, expertise, and

energy to the table. We are very fortunate to have them by our side as we continue to strengthen the Keuka Outlet Trail as a resource for our region.

The slate of board members for 2017-18 is listed below:

Gwen Chamberlain, President
Dan Condella, Vice-President
Dave Reeve, Treasurer
Peg Thompson, Secretary
Dr. Chuck McClure, Communications

Leon Fontier
Kristi Hoag
Thomas McGuigan
Philip Rahr
Steven Stork
Nancy Tharp
John Warner
Carol Worth



"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time."

-John Lubbock

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gchamberlain@sny.ny.com

Trail Coordinates:
42.661N, -77.044W
42.680N, -76.958W

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DRESDEN, NY 14441

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.keukaoutlettrail.org

Poison Ivy: What You Should Know

Poison ivy is a common poisonous plant on the Trail. It grows as a vine or small shrub trailing along the ground or climbing on low plants, trees and poles. Each leaf has three glossy leaflets, with smooth or toothed edges. Leaves are reddish in spring, green in summer, and yellow, orange or red in fall. Plants have greenish-white flowers and whitish-yellow berries.

Poison ivy rashes

can't be spread from person to person. But, it is possible to pick up the rash from plant oil that may have stuck to clothing, pets, garden tools or other items that have come into contact with these plants. The plant oil lingers on virtually any surface until it's washed off with water or rubbing alcohol. The rash will occur only where the plant oil has touched the skin.

Limit your exposure by learning what poison ivy looks like.

Wash your skin in soap and cool water as soon as possible if you come in contact with a poisonous plant. The sooner you cleanse the skin, the greater the chances that you can remove the plant oil or help prevent further spread.

Most pets are not sensitive to poison ivy, but the oil can stick to their fur and cause a reaction in someone who pets them.

