



Seedlings

Volume 2, Issue 4

Construction Season!

Summer is construction season!

Fourteen rising 8th, 9th and 10th graders used math, process thinking skills, battery power tools, directly supervised use of cutting tools, safety equipment and the power of teamwork to build a bridge at Genesee County Park & Forest during Camp Hard Hat. The five-day camp was held at the Interpretive Nature Center from 9 am to 4 pm with an optional overnight camp experience. In a partnership with Business Education Alliance of Genesee County, Business Education Alliance of Livingston County, Business Education Council of Wyoming County, and GVEP Building Trades, instructors Rich Monroe and Jared Radesi taught campers principles of design, construction, and safety. Campers completed the bridge late Thursday morning and the bridge was placed over the spillway on the Wetland Trail Thursday afternoon. Campers came from Erie, Wyoming, and Genesee Counties. Many thanks to the campers, instructors, coordinators and sponsors for their work and support on this successful construction project! See page 3 for photos of this awesome crew at work.



If you haven't visited the Interpretive Nature Center lately, you won't recognize the ACORNS Outdoor Learning Center! The goal of the Outdoor Learning Center is to provide a place of discovery and hands-on educational experiences with the natural world for students and park visitors. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, scouts and

students, new landscaping surrounds the area, bird feeding stations stand tall in the wildlife observation area, brush has been cleared, the walkways are nearly complete, and the new shrubs are protected from hungry deer. We look forward to next year's developments on this exciting project! Join us as we finish our work before the snow flies on Saturday October 22nd from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm!

DeWitt Recreation Area will have a new bathroom facility opening in spring of 2017! Park staff has completed underground water, sewer and electrical lines servicing the new bathroom and future developments in the park. The best is yet to come!



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Welcome New ACORNS:

Lee Johnson
Shannon Morley
Richard Stevens

Interpretive Nature Center Winter Hours:

Thursday—Friday:
10 am—4 pm
Saturday—Sunday:
12—4 pm



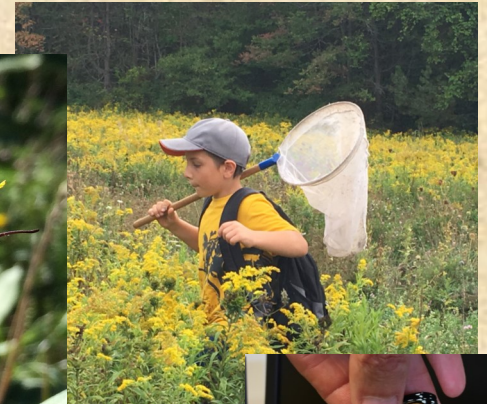
Summer Fun: Night Skies, Pollinators and Butterflies



A bright moon fills the meadow sky on a beautiful night! Meteors were scarce, but a telescope gave a great view.



Mallory shows us the meadow through an insect's eyes during *Pollinators*.



On September 17th, you helped us explore the world of Monarch butterflies during *Watching Monarchs*. Surprisingly, the field was full of caterpillars!! 4 caterpillars ate, pupated, and emerged as adult female butterflies! On October 4th the last 2 of them emerged. All 4 butterflies were tagged and released on that day, and they began their journey to Mexico for the winter! Good luck, ladies!! See the release video on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/Genesee-County-Parks-Recreation-Forestry-465144840306572/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Camp Hard Hat

14 rising 8th, 9th and 10th graders built a bridge in one week!



Campers used a table saw to cut boards.



Using a power drill to create decking



Measuring correct distance between posts



Making sure posts are square



Placement of the bridge at the Wetland Trail



Campers pose with the bridge they built



Fun facts about honey

Honeybees make and store honey all summer long, then live off of it in winter!

Honey is the only food consumed by humans that is produced by an insect.

The average honeybee will make one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.

One honeybee hive can produce 60 pounds or more of honey during one good season.

To make one pound of honey, bees travel as far as 55,000 miles and gather nectar from over 2 million flowers.

It would take only one ounce of honey to fuel a honeybee's flight around the world!

Did you know??

Fall is the time of year when animals form groups. Sticking together helps them find food and shelter, and stay safe during the winter.

Each kind of animal group has its own special name!

A group of ..

Bats
Butterflies
Crows
Finches
Opossums
Owls
Rabbits
Raccoons
Skunks
Squirrels
Sparrows
Spiders
Toads
Turkeys
Woodpeckers
Frogs

Is called a...

Cloud
Flutter
Murder
Charm
Grin
Parliament
Colony
Gaze
Surfeit
Dray
Host
Clutter
Knot
Posse
Descent
Army

Fall's Big Fish—by Mallory Broda

If leaves are falling, pumpkins are being carved, stream banks are crowded with fishermen in waders, and the air is filled with excited calls of "fish on!", then you can bet it is fall in New York State. Here in New York you may be surprised that only one species, the Atlantic salmon, is native. All others are Pacific salmon (Chinook, Coho, pink and kokanee), and have been introduced.



Atlantic Salmon

The native Atlantic Salmon was at one time the most abundant sport fish in Lake Ontario. After the turn of the 19th century, overfishing, invasive species, and habitat degradation depleted the population. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) began stocking Atlantic salmon in 1983, and currently stocks a total of 50,000 fish each year. Atlantic salmon numbers have been increasing recently, as more anglers every year report catching them. The state stocks approximately 1.7 million Chinook salmon and 250,000 Coho salmon each year in Lake Ontario and its tributaries. Atlantic salmon are most easily distinguished from Pacific

salmon by their white mouth and gum line, and prominent black "X" markings on their bodies.

In New York, both types of salmon are found anywhere from the vast waters of Lake Ontario to the small ponds in the Adirondack Mountains. While they are highly adaptable and may live in freshwater and saltwater during their lifetime, salmon stay in water that is 65 degrees F or colder.

Salmon spend their whole lives preparing for fall, when they go on an incredible journey and risk everything for their young. The salmon of New York State spend their adult lives in large lakes. Here they cruise the waters for other fish to eat, including alewife, cisco, yellow perch, and their favorite—rainbow smelt. When prey fish are scarce, the salmon will live off of insects and large plankton. Salmon eat large amounts of food to build up fat reserves as they reach maturity. For when fall comes, the mature fish will answer nature's call to begin a perilous, exhausting journey upstream, back to the place where they were hatched or stocked as young fish, in order to mate and produce their own offspring.



Chinook Salmon

As they leave their lake home and head up the stream in which they were born, they undergo physical changes and almost literally begin to fall apart. The lining of their stomach begins to degenerate, since it will not be needed in the nutrient-poor upstream waters. Instead of hunting, capturing and eating food, the salmon will live off of his or her stored fat. This lack of an occupied, working digestive system provides more room for sperm or eggs to be stored.

The journey may be only a few hundred yards from where they were born, or could be over two thousand miles. However, even for fish lucky enough to have a short distance to travel, jumping up waterfalls and swimming upstream for miles is no easy feat. Shallow streams are not easily navigable, and the lack of cover exposes them to predators. Each fish has a finite supply of energy, and they put everything they have into making it back to their natal waters and spawning.

Although some spawning does occur near river mouths, most spawning takes place in upstream portions of rivers or streams. Adult salmon build nests called "redds" in the stream bottom. The redds are dug by the female in areas of moving water, such as near riffles or the tail end of pools. The female moves gravel and small rocks with vigorous sweeps of her tail until a depression has been created. The eggs are then deposited and quickly fertilized by a male.

Salmon lay anywhere between two to two thousand eggs. Salmon protect their eggs by burying them in gravel. After spawning, the female moves upstream a short distance and digs into the gravel, freeing it so it will drift downstream and cover the eggs. The female and the male salmon move upstream as they lay eggs and repeat this process, making a total of up to 7 redds. Female salmon will guard the redd for a week or two after laying eggs, if she has the energy.

Buried under layers of gravel, the salmon embryos develop slowly and hatch in late winter or early spring. After hatching, young salmon move downstream into lakes or oceans either immediately (in the case of pink salmon), or after one or more years of growth in the stream (as with Atlantic salmon).

Atlantic salmon may survive the journey upstream, create viable nests of offspring, then return to the lake to feed and make the journey again the next year. In contrast to their eastern cousins, all species of Pacific salmon die after spawning. However, studies in the state of Washington have shown that the decomposing bodies of dead adult salmon provide life-giving nutrients to over 130 species of microbes, mammals, birds, and stream invertebrates in the watershed, not to mention their tiny young growing babies. So goes the story of the salmon—the offspring of dedicated parents inherit much more than DNA.



Chinook salmon alevins (aka baby fish)

Sources:

<http://www.douglastonsalmonrun.com/Fish-Species.aspx>
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/62216.html>
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7028.html>
http://www.atlanticsalmontrust.org/learning-zone-assets/atlantic_salmon_life_cycle.pdf
<http://www.marinebio.net/marinescience/05nektion/sarepro.htm>
<http://www.onthewater.com/lake-ontarios-native-salmon-return-oswego-county/>

Record-Breaking Deer Comes Home to Genesee County

In November of 1946, Game Protector Martin Salway was called to a farm on South Main Street Road in the Town of Batavia in Genesee County. The call was for a large buck deer stuck in the mud on the farm. Officer Salway shot the deer as he could tell the deer was in poor condition from being stuck for a long time. The buck was large, with massive, dramatically branching antlers.

The June-July 1950 issue of the New York State Conservationist reported this new state record, previously held for more than 50 years by a Hamilton County head (now in the Fort Orange Club in Albany) taken by Robert L. Banks. Using the Grancel Fitz scoring system, the head comes up with a total of 200.1 points, and so moved into the first place position for largest deer antlers in the state. Measurements of the antlers yielded a length of main beam (right) 28.5 inches, (left) 29.1; circumference of burr (both right and left) 8.2; greatest inside spread, 23.1 inches. Interestingly, however, this buck with the record-breaking rack had a dressed weight of only 146 pounds.

Martin Salway served as a State Game Protector assigned to Genesee County. He started his service October 1, 1919 and served for 34 years until November 15, 1953. He died in the line of duty as a result of a heart attack while checking hunters in a field near the Oakfield swamp area.

The magnificent deer head was donated to Genesee County Park & Forest in August of 2016 by Kim Wolcott (grandson of Martin) and family. Visit the Interpretive Nature Center for more on the story behind this Genesee County wildlife hall of famer!



Record-breaking Salway Deer of Genesee County greets visitors at the Interpretive Nature Center

Genesee County Park Deer Management Program



The Genesee County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department embarked on a new Deer Management Program for the Genesee County Park & Forest in 2016. Bow hunter participation was at 11 people and 3 does were taken.

Unfortunately, these levels are not high enough to continue the program in 2017. The man hours needed by the Parks Department to implement and monitor the program were greater than the revenue dollars generated. All of the bow hunters were satisfied and thought it was a well implemented program. Unfortunately, time is of an essence for the Parks Department to provide the basic necessary services to the general public. With their time placed elsewhere monitoring the program, objectives could not be fully met in other areas of priority within the park. This program may continue in the future but at this time the Parks Department will review other avenues of deer management within the Genesee County Park & Forest. We thank all those who contributed their thoughts, ideas, time and efforts in the Deer Management Program process!

Thank You Volunteers!

McQuaid Jesuit Community Service Day



McQuaid students creating and edging landscape in the ACORNS Outdoor Learning Center.



McQuaid students mulching landscape and planting shrubs.

Batavia High School Make a Difference Day



Students transform the flower beds and landscaping.



Students finish the walkways in the Outdoor Learning Center.

Volunteer work has always been essential to park stewardship, development and improvements. Service projects at the parks come in all types and sizes! For information on what you or your group can do for the parks please contact Paul Osborn, Parks Supervisor at 585-344-8508!



Genesee County AmeriCorps provides support to Environmental Education at the parks through the Environmental Stewardship position with Genesee County Park & Forest. Thank you to our AmeriCorps volunteers for making so many fun and interesting events and programs possible!! For more information and to become a volunteer contact Kathy Frank, Program Director of the Genesee County AmeriCorps at (585) 344-3960 <http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/youthbureau/ameriCorp.html>

Run for the ACORNS!

You're "NUTS" if you don't!
By Julia Garver

The fourth annual "Run for the ACORNS" 10K and 5K Trail Run/Walk was held at the Genesee County Park & Forest in East Bethany on October 2nd. The weather cooperated so that the 200+ participants were able to complete the course in ideal Fall conditions.

The female overall winner of the 10K race, Ashley Waite of Pavilion, said she loves the Run for the ACORNS. "I try to run it every year." John Kirkland of Batavia, who also ran the 10K race, said: "It's my favorite race of the year. It's a great course, very unique and just challenging enough."

The course winds through the park on trails which feature hills, ponds, forests and Black Creek. A dozen environmental education signs are posted so that runners and walkers can learn about some noteworthy park features.



Runners on the Wetland Trail

Post-race activities included an award ceremony and refreshments such as yogurt provided by Upstate Farms and Alpina, apples from Roanoke Apple Farm and nut butters from Once Again Nut Butter. Dole representatives treated runners and walkers to

samples of its new Fruit n' Spice products.

Race director Julia Garver said, "Each year I meet participants who have run the race for the first time, and they always comment how special this race is. We hope the word will spread - Run for the ACORNS: You're nuts if you don't!" The race date for the 5th anniversary of the Run for the ACORNS is set for October 1, 2017.



Kerry Mills

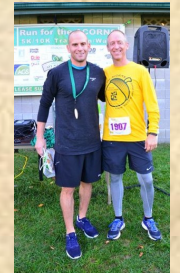
Congratulations to all the winners in the race. The overall top finishers in the 10K run were Chad Minuto of Batavia (42:05) and Ashley Waite of Pavilion (47:44). In the 5K run the top male finisher was Michael R of Batavia (21:00) and the top female was Kerry Mills of Basom (23:50). First place overall winners received a \$50 gift certificate from Dick's Sporting Goods, and second place winners received a fleece jacket from the Tompkins Bank of Castile. Each age group winner and the overall winners received a wooden medallion with the race logo and race category burned into the wood. Brothers-All-Natural sponsored the awards.

Many thanks to the major sponsors of the race - the Awards sponsor: [Brothers-All-Natural](#); Corporate sponsors: [Tompkins Bank of Castile](#), [CARQUEST](#) - Batavia and [Akima Global Services](#); and the first-ever Cup sponsor: [Alex's Place](#). The well-organized race would not be possible without the many volunteers who made sure everything from registration to refreshments ran smoothly, especially members of [ACORNS](#), the [US Navy Sea Cadet Corps](#) and [Bethany Volunteer Fire Department](#). Special thanks also go out to our other sponsors, all of whom helped make the Run for the ACORNS a great success!

For more information and full race results please go to:
<https://runfortheacorns.shutterfly.com/>



Ashley Waite



Chad Minuto



10K Race Start!

Meet the ACORNS

(Association for the Conservation OF Recreational and Natural Spaces)

The ACORNS is the volunteer group formed to support the Genesee County Parks by assisting with environmental programs and park maintenance, offering recreational opportunities and promoting the parks.



ACORNS Board of Directors:

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 Mary Yunker, Vice-President
 Barbara Easton, Treasurer
 Jerome Gentry, Secretary
 Charlie Augrom
 Sarah Balduf
 Daisy Klein
 Bill Moon
 George Squires

Members:

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 Charlie Augrom
 Sarah Balduf
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 Mallory Broda
 Barbara & Mike Easton
 David & Marcia Gann
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 Jim Schmitt
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 George Squires
 Sandy & Dave Steele
 Richard Stevens
 Jim & Laurie Taille
 Kathie Woika
 Mary Yunker
 Pam Zola

If your name is not on this list, it may be time to renew your membership!

Join us for ACORNS Volunteer Days on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10 am-1 pm. ACORNS meetings are held every 4th Tuesday evening of the month. Check website for location.

ACORNS website: <http://acorns.shutterfly.com>



RUN FOR THE ACORNS 2017

Sunday, October 1st

ACORNS is looking for a few great volunteers to help out and have fun! Contact us at <https://runfortheacorns.shutterfly.com>



Be Ready for Anything!! Join us for “Ready Genesee”

**Presented by Genesee County Emergency Management Services
and Genesee County Health Department**

**At the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center
Saturday, October 29th from 1 pm to 2 pm**

Presentation is FREE! Register by calling 585-344-0078

DO YOU HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND
CAPABILITIES TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
AND PETS DURING AN EMERGENCY?



Use the electronic mapping feature and one-touch buttons to find and contact local agencies for assistance.



Use the “Emergency Now” page to activate your plan. Practice your plan with your family. Prepare today to save your loved ones tomorrow.



Scan this code to download the free application today. Get assistance with emergency pre-planning. Receive real-time emergency updates



Upcoming Events

The Secret World of Spiders

at Genesee County Park & Forest

Saturday October 22nd 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Eek!! Do spiders freak you out?

They are *everywhere*!!

Come learn about the amazing lives of your tiny, 8-legged neighbors and why having them around is a good thing.



Meet live tarantulas and other spiders from around the world, and find out how spiders help us stay safe and healthy in so many ways!

\$5/person, \$10/family

Pre-registration is required, call 585-344-1122



Come explore over 10 miles of trails through meadows, woodlands and wetlands, and warm up in the Interpretive Nature Center.

OPEN: Thursday and Friday,
10 am—4 pm
Saturday and Sunday
12 pm—4 pm!

Create-a-Critter

At the Genesee County Park & Forest
Interpretive Nature Center

Saturday, December 3rd
1:30—3:30 pm

Let your imagination run wild!!

Meet in the activity room of the
Nature Center for an eclectic spread of craft
materials gathered from nature.



Hot glue and your creativity will
put it all together.

Your own creation will make the
perfect gift!

\$5/person, \$10/family
Pre-registration required,
Call 585-344-1122!

Programs take place at the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center, 11095 Bethany Center Rd, East Bethany, NY 14054 unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is required for all programs. To register call (585) 344-1122. For more information visit our website at <http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/>, or contact Shannon Morley at Shannon.Morley@co.genesee.ny.us or (585) 344-1122.

**Genesee County Park & Forest
Interpretive Nature Center**

11095 Bethany Center Rd.
East Bethany, NY 14054

Phone: 585-344-1122
Fax: 585-343-6611

Visit

www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/

The Secret World of Spiders

Sat. October 22nd

1:30 - 3:00 pm

\$5/person, \$10/family

Pre-Registration Required, Call 585-344-1122

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to help us earn...***



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Make a Difference!



Do you have nature-related books you would like to donate? We have a lending library for adults to sign out books, take home and read. When you're done, bring them back and sign out more!

To donate books please call the Interpretive Center at 585-344--1122 or send an email to Shannon.Morley@co.genesee.ny.us. (Magazines and encyclopedias not needed)



**Genesee County Parks,
Recreation & Forestry**

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