

A FOTO Fun- & Fund-Raising Weekend Ahead

- ❖ *Duck Club Spaghetti Dinner - June 21*
- ❖ *Moose Lodge Breakfast - June 23*



Delicious ways to support the Keuka Outlet Trail are soon upon us with two events coming up at two different community organizations. Start the summer with the Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, June 21, 2024 at the Seneca Lake Duck Hunters Association from 5-7PM. Tickets are only \$12 for adults, and the beautiful scenic grounds of the Duck Club are located at 2188 NY Rte 14, Penn Yan.



And then on Sunday, June 23, 2024, from 8-10AM the International Moose Lodge will host its second annual fundraiser breakfast for the Friends of the Outlet at 301 E. Elm Street, Penn Yan where adult tickets are just \$8. After the fun- and fundraising breakfast, participants are invited to join a short hike along the nearby Keuka

Outlet Trail to visit the new Pollinator's Garden that is located just .6 of a mile from the Moose Lodge's E. Elm Street address.

Together these two ticketed events represent a significant portion of the Friends of the Outlet earned annual revenue that support the trail's essential maintenance and upkeep efforts. It is also a great way to meet the board of directors and the maintenance team who will be acting as servers and attendants. To purchase advance sale tickets online to either event go to: <https://www.keukaoutlettrail.org/event-list>.

"Civic organizations in Yates County are as generous and they are exceptional in their unique and individual ways of building community support and interest," Keith Prather, president of the Friends of the Outlet, Inc. said. "Our Moose Lodge Breakfast was so successful last year we were excited to come again this year. And with the 40th Anniversary of the Friends, we were delighted when the Duck Hunter's Club wanted to revisit the successful Spaghetti Dinners of the more distant past, often honoring the late Bruce Hansen. It just so happened they both picked the same weekend. Is there a better time to celebrate the KOT than the first weekend of summer?"

Hopeton Campground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Celebration



On Saturday, May 4, 2024 several dozen people attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Hopeton Campground located at 1025 Hopeton Road, approximately one half mile east of the Hopeton Road parking area and access point of the Keuka Outlet Trail. The campground is designed for tents only with one shared port-a-potty, but no running water or electricity. There are three sites with unique platforms for tents that help facilitate drainage in rainy weather, and one lean-to.

The very first official group of campers were Troop #444 Scouts of America under the leadership of Diane Trickey-Morse and Judson Reid of Penn Yan. They not only introduced the program with the pledge of allegiance, but they provided an overview of pollinator's gardens followed by demonstration of emergency outdoor caregiving for an injured hiker who may need a makeshift gurney or stretcher or a tourniquet.

The first visionary for a Keuka Outlet Trail campground was past president Phil Whitman, who, in 2000, spearheaded the application for a NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation grant to purchase Morrie's Mountain for the development of a primitive campground. The original site was a figure eight go-cart track in the 1950s and 60s which today is used as the ring road for the camping

area. With a more recent grant from Yates County TAC fund, the FOTO Maintenance Team and many volunteers turned Whitman's early vision into reality. A sign marks the new driveway, which is a dirt road with millings mixed in for stability and guard rails for protection.

Campers are strongly encouraged to make a FREE, online reservation at <https://www.keukaoutlettrail.org/campground> to avoid any unexpected conflicts. There is a limit of five calendar days per year per visitor. A campground ranger circulates daily to check on all campsites. At this time, FOTO is not charging for the campsites, but rather asking campers to make a market-value donation of at least \$12/night to Friends of the Outlet, or become a member of the organization.

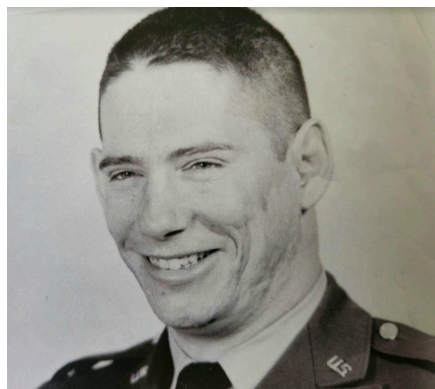


Flag Pole Donations at Two KOT Locations



The Friends of the Outlet Board of Directors and the Maintenance Team would like to thank the American Legion-Johnson-Costello Post 355 for their generous donation of a new American flag that is now flying Cascade Falls.

In addition, Keith Prather, president of FOTO donated a new pole, flag and solar powered light source at Hopeton Camground in memory of his late father, Dr. Robert F. Prather (pictured below), who served in the US Army as a paratrooper, 1957-59 and again in 1960-61 for the Berlin Crisis. "My father loved camping, and I am proud to honor him with this flag pole at our new campground."



Keuka Men's Lacrosse Wades in to Help Clean the Keuka Outlet



Eighteen Keuka College Men's Lacrosse players, trainer, Phil Rahr, and head coach, Ty Trombley, donated their Sunday afternoon to brave the chilly waters of the Keuka Outlet to make it free of debris and garbage on Sunday, May 5th. "I was very pleased with their efforts. The men literally jumped right in the water to retrieve garbage and other unpleasanties from the Keuka Outlet. This was something I had hoped to do this year. There is a lot of plastic garbage in the Outlet and this can lead to microplastics being washed into Seneca Lake which could enter the fish population making it harmful to everyone who enjoys fishing these beautiful Finger Lakes," said FOTO President, Keith Prather, who hosted the team.

The players accumulated 4 bags of trash, 2 shopping carts, a few old tires and 46 yellow ducks from the old Duck races held many years ago. "I was amazed to see the ducks," said Prather, "I don't think there has been a duck race in years. It just shows you, what goes in the Outlet stays there unless we take it out. I am very thankful for the Keuka Lacrosse team and Coach Trombley's efforts."

"I am very proud of the team's dedication and hard work to this project," said Coach Trombley. The team started at Cherry Street and in groups of 3-4 players spread out along the banks of the Outlet collecting garbage. The teams made it as far as Cascade Falls. "I'm hoping we can finish from Cascade Falls to Seneca Lake later this summer with another group of volunteers or have Ty's team come back next school year to finish the job," Prather added. Thank you Keuka College Men's Lacrosse team on a job done well.





Eagle Scout Nominee Begins Her Final Project at Hopeton Campground



Nina Reid, Eagle Scout applicant, began her final project for the Eagle Scout badge by researching, designing and building a pollinator garden at Hopeton Campground. Reid, a scout for — years, began her project under the guidance of Allison Lawes who instructed her on the plants, location and best designs for a pollinator garden. A pollinator garden is a garden in which native plants are grown that will attract birds and help spread and pollinate the native species planted in the garden to other areas. These gardens are both helpful to local plant and animal life. In addition to the instruction, Lawes and Reid created a pollinator garden along the Keuka Outlet Trail by

Fox's Mill that would serve as a model to the garden built at Hopeton Campground.

On the opening weekend of the Hopeton Campground on the weekend of May 4-5, Reid and her Scout Troop #--- camped at Hopeton and constructed the garden. Reid led her group of five other scouts as they rolled —trees into 2 triangles that measured approximately 10 feet in

length on each side. The bed of the garden was lined with mulch and she will be planting in the garden in the coming weeks.

“I was very impressed with the construction of the pollinator gardens at the campground,” said Keith Prather, president of Friends of the Outlet, “I had the pleasure of teaching Nina at St. Michael School in fourth and fifth grade. She was a wonderful, caring student. It was a goal of St. Michael School to make students aware of the importance of helping others and giving back to the community. It is great to see her continuing that mission by completing a project of this nature for the Outlet Trail. I hope after this first garden is completed, she will consider constructing more gardens on the main trail with her troop for the many visitors to the Keuka Outlet Trail to enjoy.”



FOTO Presidents' Receive a “Staff”



The word STAFF has multiple meanings and the various definitions were presented to all past, current, and future presidents of the Friends of the Outlet. Collectively, the presidents were presented with a handcrafted, one-of-a-kind, decorated President’s Staff that blends the various interpretations of the word with a little irony. The wooden stick was found along the KOT and outfitted by Donna Rae Sutherland with all kinds of local treasures from beach glass and beads to feathers, leather, buttons, wood-burned carvings, but most significantly, a tiny scroll listing all of the Friends of the Outlet Presidents with plenty of available space to add on each new president in the years to come. As part of the 40th Anniversary Celebration and the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new Hopeton Campground - the vision of multiple presidents over 20 years, the staff is now in the possession of President Keith Prather. However, when the time comes for him to pass along the title and its massive, inherent responsibility to the next president - he can also hand off the staff or fancy hiking stick too.

“It’s a ceremonial staff symbolizing the incredible work presidents do to further the Friends’ critical mission of being good stewards of the KOT – all without a staff!” Donna Rae said. “As I was leaving the Friends of the Outlet Board of Directors, I wanted to honor and recognize the amazing hard work of the presidents who, with no staff or paid employees, have contributed thousands of hours to the organization and made the Keuka Outlet Trail what it is today.”

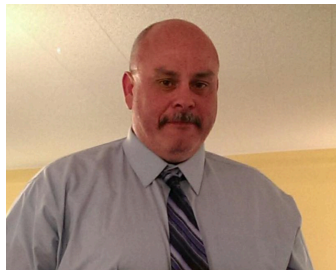


New Gazebo Benches Thanks to the FOTO Maintenance Team

We are once again grateful to the amazing volunteer Maintenance Team who added benches inside the new Gazebo overlooking Cascade Falls. The octagonal platform for the gazebo is a repurposed industrial foundation from the old mill and commercial business that used to hug the waterway.



Sheriff Ryan Joins FOTO Board Meeting



Newly elected Yates County Sheriff, Francis Ryan, was gracious enough to give up his Wednesday evening and join the Friends of the Outlet at their monthly meeting in May. Sheriff Ryan offered a short bio on his career, family and his goals as Yates County Sheriff. Board members were able to ask Sheriff Ryan questions pertaining to the Keuka Outlet Trail. The biggest area of concern on the trail is fire pits being created and used after dark on the trail in a few specific

locations. Sheriff Ryan said he would let deputies on patrol be advised of these locations.

When asked if there could be deputies put on the trail periodically, Sheriff Ryan said it would be a difficult task. Unfortunately, the sheriff's office is not at full man power and providing officers on the trail would be difficult. Bike patrol officers have not been used for several years because those officers retired. There are currently no certified bike or atv patrol officers available on this time. This is something Sheriff Ryan hopes to correct in the coming year.

The new campground was discussed and how best to contact the Sheriff's department if needed. There is a non-emergency number that can be used if the situation warrants help. In an emergency, 911 is the appropriate call. Sheriff Ryan stated that patrol cars would be advised to keep an eye on the location, especially on weekends in the summer.

Friends of the Outlet are grateful that Sheriff Ryan could make himself available for the meeting, and they look forward to working with him in the future.

Volunteers Needed: Add Your "Two Cents" to the Keuka Outlet Trail

- Please Join Us! -

No matter what your age or interest, profession or passion - the Friends of the Outlet needs you! From serving as a behind-the-scenes board member, or taking pictures and posting them on social media; helping maintain the trail with litter clean-up or trail trimming; writing articles for the newsletter or website; being a millsite monitor - to whatever floats your boat - please consider signing up for some aspect of sharing your time and energy with the Friends of the Outlet. Contact Carol Worth at carolworth280@gmail.com.

Celebrating Cascade in 2024

Have you saved the date for the 4th Annual - 40th Anniversary Celebrate Cascade scheduled on **Saturday, September 21, 2024** - the last official day of summer? Music, local food and beverage vendors, community groups and the best venue anywhere for an outdoor summer to fall festival. There is no better sound backdrop for good music and acoustics than the Keuka Outlet gorge with hay bales offering front row seats and a grassy knoll as the dance floor. Don't miss it! (And whoever has been bringing the consistently good weather - please come again.



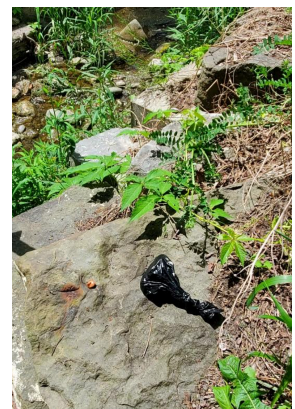
Introducing the New Board Members

The following slate of people were nominated as new Friends of the Outlet Board Members:

- Tim Chambers, Dresden
- Damian Clemons, Penn Yan
- Denise Hopkins, Penn Yan
- Judy Irwin, Penn Yan

KOT's Pet Poop Policy...Again!

This recent photograph illustrates the kind of dog walker behavior we adamantly discourage! Leaving your filled dog waste plastic bag along

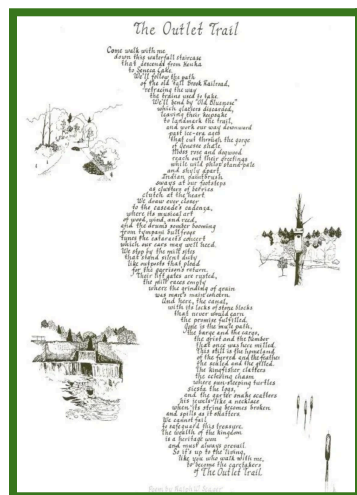


the trail is firmly against policy and an affront to common courtesy. As a friendly reminder, here is the Pet Poop Policy for the Keuka Outlet Trail.

We are pleased to welcome you and your dogs to the Keuka Outlet Trail. Please pick up and carry out all dog waste from this natural area. Doing so is not only courteous and clean, but preserves water quality, allowing safe fishing and other activity in or near the water. Unlike horses and other plant eaters, dogs have a high-protein diet. This means that dog waste is acidic, high in nitrogen, and contains germs that cause disease. It is not fertilizer, but damages plants. In addition, dog poop left here will make its way into the water nearby, which can lead to algal blooms (murky and smelly water) and could introduce Salmonella and E. coli, which can make humans very sick.

*If you enjoy the clear water and healthy plant life,
please help keep it that way by removing your dog's waste on and off the trail.*

And if you really want to be a friend to the environment, consider purchasing biodegradable pet poop bags. There are many options available online!



The Outlet Trail Poem Poster

The “Come walk with me...” poem written by the late poet and local professor Ralph W. Seager gives an inspiring description of the Keuka Outlet Trail from its unique geology to its incredible ecology. Calligrapher Robyn Ballard and illustrator Kathi Lee Dean added their creativity to make an outstanding, 11” x 17” poster and a perfect piece of artwork as well as a perfect gift for the holidays. The poster is only \$10 and will grace the walls or halls of your loved one’s home for decades. Just go to the KOT store:

<https://www.keukaoutlettrail.org/shop-1>

KOT Membership If you entertained family members and friends who visited our area from outside Yates County, perhaps you took them to the Keuka Outlet Trail to see the waterfalls or give some four-legged friends a bit of exercise. How about giving these out-of-the-area visitors the gift of friendship and helping them become an official Friend of the Outlet? They will receive our triannually produced newsletters, they will have a special connection to the trail, and together you’ll be supporting a local treasure. An individual membership is just \$20, a group/family

membership is \$40, and the beloved pooch, horse, or other furry friend(s) are just \$10 (Pet Patron).

As a 100% volunteer organization, support for the Keuka Outlet Trail comes in all shapes, sizes and forms. Members play an essential role in the success of this not-for-profit organization, and we hope you will renew and even upgrade your membership. The more support we receive, the more new projects we can tackle, such as the Seneca Falls Accessibility project. Imagine walking the trail with a distant relative or maybe cross-country skiing in the winter and exploring the new Campground, stopping at the Cascade Pavilion for lunch, or looping through one of the side trails. Please encourage your friends and relatives to become current members. Memberships can easily be submitted at <http://www.keukaoutlettrail.org/membership>. Or send a check to: **Friends of the Outlet, PO Box 65, Dresden, NY 14441**

Please include: Full Name / Email Address / Postal Address and your

- _____ **\$10 Pet Patron (each)**
- _____ **\$20 Individual**
- _____ **\$40 Family**
- _____ **\$100 Booster**
- _____ **\$200 Bronze**
- _____ **\$500 Silver**
- _____ **\$1000 Gold**
- _____ **\$2000 Platinum**

Current Friends of the Outlet Officers and Board of Directors:

Keith Prather, President Jay Saner, Vice President Megan Wilkinson, Treasurer Allison Stewart, Secretary	Tim Chambers Damian Clemons Judy Erwin Denise Hopkins Michael O'Brien, Director of Electronic Communications Judson Reid Kenneth Walker Carol Worth
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Friends of the Outlet Mission:

The Friends of the Outlet, Inc. is a non-profit organization working with the community to preserve, protect and develop our properties along Keuka Outlet Creek to provide an area for natural, physical, outdoor and historic oriented recreation and education, while serving as responsible stewards for the natural resources of our organization.