

Friends of the Outlet Newsletter featuring the Keuka Outlet Trail



4th Annual Celebrate Cascade is Next Week! ~ The Last Day of Summer! ~



The 4th Annual - 40th Anniversary Celebrate Cascade is coming up fast! We hope everyone will join the FREE festival on **Saturday, September 21, 2024, 12 - 4PM** - the last official day of summer for great music, local food and beverage vendors, and community groups enjoying the best venue anywhere for an outdoor summer-to-fall celebration. With the ravine wall acting as the perfect music backdrop, the sweet sounds of Blue Eyed Soul will mingle with the waterfalls, and conversation will also be flowing, along with laughter and a toast to the Fall Equinox.

Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. Leashed friendly dogs are welcomed. Enjoy refreshments from Anthony Road Wine Company, Apple Barrel Orchards, Climbing Bines Hop Farm and Brewery, Seneca Farms Ice Cream, & True Roots Food Truck.

With limited parking, please consider biking or hiking in, and/or ride sharing. And the greenest among us might consider bringing their refill-able drink cup and reusable (camping) silverware to reduce one-use plastics and landfill waste.

We are deeply grateful to and thank our event sponsors: Lyons National Bank, The Moorings on Keuka - Howard Hannah, Lattimore Physical Therapy and Shoreline Rentals.



A “Heavy Metal” Donation by Two Can Dads - Thank you!



Two Can Dan's Redemption Center in Penn Yan is a stellar example of a community-based business that quietly serves the community in a multifaceted fashion. First, as a waste management company, local citizens can redeem their returnables with not only efficiency, but with fun! With Two Can Dan's innovative Spring, Summer & soon Fall Fever give-away, participants will have chances to win cash prizes at the upcoming drawing on October 1, 2024. Get your returnables in soon to earn more tickets to increase your chances!

More importantly, Two Can Dan's gives numerous, local, not-for-profit groups the space to maintain their own redeeming collection initiative that provides each group with a substantial donation opportunity. The multi-bin, multi-organization collection area on 137 Benham Street has actively served the nonprofit community in this capacity for more than 19 years.

And what about all those cans that aren't redeemable for the 5 cent deposit? What happens to them? Two Can Dan's offers another incredible environmental service by not only keeping them out of the landfill, but separating and collecting these non redeemable cans, and crushing them into a 4 by 5 by 4 foot block of recyclable metal. Those big blocks generally weigh between 250 and 300 lbs. and are taken to B & B Recycling earning market-value payment for scrap metal. But rather than keeping these payments for additional revenue, Two Cans Dan's donates the scrap metal payment to a local nonprofit organization.

Knowing how hard the Maintenance Team of the Keuka Outlet Trail has worked throughout the past 40 years, Danny and Missy Gurba, owners of Two Can Dan's, donated their recent collection of recyclables to the Friends of the Outlet. The photo above shows Dan and Mickey Orr, the leader of the Friends of the Outlet Maintenance team recently hauling eight pallets to B & B Recycling for a fantastic donation of \$945.



Second Annual Mill to Mill 5K and 10K Race

Willow Running USA and the Friends of the Keuka Outlet Trail are excited to bring you the 2nd Annual Mill to Mill 5K/10K on **Saturday, September 14, 2024**. This 5K/10K event takes place on the Keuka Outlet Trail starting/finishing at Cascade Falls. Both the 5K and 10K races start at Cascade Falls with the 5K participants running to Fox Mills site before returning to Cascade Falls to finish and to enjoy the post race fun. There will be food and drink for all finishers and live music while you relax and enjoy the last weekend of Summer 2024.

Advance online registration is encouraged by clicking [here](#), but day-of runners can still sign up on Saturday, September 14. [Mill to Mill 5K/10K \(Keuka Outlet Trail\)](#)

All registered will receive a custom short sleeve shirt and a finisher medal.

Packet pickup will be held prior to the race event starting at 10:00am at Cascade Falls, the Mill to Mill Race starting point.

Directions to Cascade Falls: At the intersection of Ridge Rd. and Outlet Rd. (This intersection is approximately 4 miles from Penn Yan following Outlet Rd.), enter the May's Mills parking area. At the end of the parking area will be an open gate. Follow the dirt road through the gate approximately one quarter mile to the Cascade Falls parking area.

Thank you Duck and Moose Clubs for this Summer's Fun FOTO Fund-Raisers



The first weekend of summer was a special one for Friends of the Outlet when two delicious events were organized to support the Keuka Outlet Trail together raising more than \$3,500. Both the Seneca Lakes Duck Hunters Association and the International Moose Lodge hosted very successful fundraisers, helping to kickoff our 40th Anniversary Summer with delicious foods and generous donations.

Together these two ticketed events represent a significant portion of the Friends of the Outlet annual revenue that supports the trail's essential maintenance and upkeep efforts.



"We are deeply grateful to the exceptional, long-standing support these two dedicated civic organizations have given over the years," Keith Prather, president of the Friends of the Outlet, Inc. said. "To witness their continued commitment to the Trail, especially on our 40th Anniversary, is a beautiful thing, indeed. Thank you to all!"

SAVE THE DATE: Call it the Duck Hunter Redux or the Summer Spaghetti Dinner Repeat, but join us on **Friday, October 18, 2024** for another great **Spaghetti Dinner FOTO Fundraiser at the Seneca Lake Duck Hunters Association from 5-7PM**. Tickets are just \$15 for adults. Enjoy

the scenic view of Seneca Lake with autumn colors in full bloom! Raffle Prizes will also be available at the event: (1) \$100; (1) \$50 (4) \$25.

“And a Good Time was had by all!” - Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Article by Carol Worth / Photos by Donna Rae Sutherland



Here are a few fun photos from the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic held at Cascade Pavilion. It was a great day for the Board to express their gratitude to volunteers and especially members

of the Maintenance Team who volunteer year-round to keep the trail in excellent condition.

Thank you one and all!

On Sunday August 11, 2024, the Keuka Outlet Trail board of directors took time out to honor our volunteers and say, "Thank you. For all that you do." The bulk of those volunteers is a cadre of 14 people who mow, trim, build, cut, remove and clear the Trail to offer the best possible safety, views and access to trail users. We also had a few of our Millsite Monitors who regularly walk the Trail, check and report on downed limbs, port-a-potty supplies, and pick up trash. I had hoped when I rejoined the board this third round that we could generate great enthusiasm and an involved community of volunteers from both members and non-members. That has been somewhat of a challenge as our needs are so sporadic and our maintenance crew so effective. What I've come to understand is that our volunteer board, volunteer maintenance crew and our most active members are our built-in KOT community. And I vote we play and picnic together more often.

A special thank you to Friends of the Outlet who serve on the Maintenance Team:

- Dave Baum
- Mike Bishop
- Tim Chambers
- Jim Culver
- Martin Gariepy
- Tom Hietanen
- Tom Hohman
- Keith Kier
- Norm Koek
- Deanne Lamborn
- Tim Oppel
- Mickey Orr
- Steve Stork
- John Warner



**“...And
the Beat
Goes
On...”**



This is how positive things often happen on the Keuka Outlet Trail. A board member suggests something at a meeting. The idea is vetted. Estimates from a local vendor include a better idea that may be a bit more costly – but definitely worth the investment. Fundraisers happen and the generosity of local individuals, businesses and even other nonprofit organizations come forth. Eight months later the project is done with the incredible volunteer teamwork of the men and women who are the Friends of the Outlet.

In this case, Donna Rae Sutherland suggested we “Paint Cascade” and improve the look of the new pavilion in honor of the 40th Anniversary. Keith Prather hits Knapp and Schlappi for quotes, but they suggest siding and re-roofing when they review the photos. The Once Again Shoppe makes a solid donation for the project and then an anonymous donor provides the supplies. And not so ironically, on Labor Day weekend, the project comes together! Wow!



“All I can say, with tears in my eyes, is **thank you!**” -dRae



Friends of the Outlet:



YATES COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce

September 2024 Member of the Month



(Photos by July Irwin)

It is a fitting tribute to The Friends of the Outlet Trail's (FOTO) 40th Anniversary to be recognized as the Yates County Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month for September 2024.

"Apparently our founders recognized the importance of membership in the esteemed Chamber of Commerce from the very beginning," Keith Prather, FOTO president said.



"We've been members of the organization since day one! Considering the amazing history of the outlet trail that goes back centuries, it comes as no surprise."

FOTO actually owns the land on either side of the creek that is the outlet from Keuka to Seneca Lakes. From the Cherry St. access to Fox Mill, and on to Dresden at Seneca Lake, FOTO is responsible for funding and shepherding and acting as steward for this local treasure. Why? For your safety, outdoor enjoyment and education.

After Hurricane Agnes wiped out the Fallbrook Railroad tracks with devastating flooding in 1972, it took about 12 years for the property to be transferred from railroad company, to county, and then to FOTO ownership in 1984. But there is a key piece of our history we never want to forget. Long before the railroad moved goods between Keuka and Seneca Lakes, long before mules pulled canal barges, and long before Jemima Wilkinson settled here with her followers and built a string of mills along the Outlet, Native Americans trekked and traded, hunted and fished these sacred waters. The Seneca Nation started the proud and rich history of this amazing waterway known to them as the Minnesetah River.

Hopeton Campground Update



Hopeton Campground opened this year with a ribbon cutting celebration and the local scouts spending the first weekend camping there in early May. Several other groups have enjoyed the lean to and camping spots this summer. Unfortunately, rain forced a few registered campers back to their homes. FOTO would love to see more campers use the campground. If you have stayed at the campground or have ideas to improve registering more campers, please, let us know.

The campground has been maintained by the maintenance crew mowing the grass, keeping the access road clear of debris and the fire pits free of weeds. Also, a hiking trail from the

campground to the main trail has been added for campers who want to hike down to the Keuka Outlet Trail. From the lean to, the trail winds through the forest, drops down a slight hill and connects to the main trail between two bridges on the Outlet Trail about a half of a mile from the Dresden end point of the trail. In addition, a loop trail has been completed where the trail to the main trail begins. It travels less than a mile though the woods surrounding the campground. We hope more people will take advantage of this beautiful area next year.

Please note: The campground closes for the year on October 1 to allow hunters access to the area. It will reopen for campers in May 2025.



KOT Profile: Carol Worth, 3X Board Member

As Carol Worth finishes up another stint (her third!) as a member of the Friends of the Outlet Board of Directors, it is past time to highlight her

lengthy contributions to the organization. She not only has a passion for the Keuka Outlet Trail, but she inspires and engages volunteers as well as financial contributors and sponsors to share their energy and resources to the beloved KOT.

“When I rejoined the board this round, I wanted to generate great enthusiasm and involve a community of volunteers,” Carol said. “With the KOT’s needs being so sporadic, it has been somewhat of a challenge. But we have our steady volunteer maintenance crew, who we love, and our faithful Millsite Monitors who check on trash, downed trees and port-a-potties. And, of course, there is the board of directors. All these volunteers create a vibrant community that are the lifeblood of the organization and I am very proud of them.”

Developing the Millsite Monitors program, recruiting new board members and volunteers, reviewing and editing numerous communication and grant initiatives, securing sponsor donations, attending most monthly meetings and events, and most recently, organizing the Maintenance Team Appreciation Picnic are just a few of her many accomplishments.

The amazing network of people and resources that Carol Worth relies on to do her fine work is, in part, due to having lived in the Finger Lakes region for most of her life. With the exception of a 20 year stint in the 1980s and ‘90s, where her career and family took her to Tucson, Arizona and Washington, DC area, she’s been in central New York since 1950. Her family settled here when her father, a native of New York City, met and then married her mother, who was from Elmira. During one of their many car cruising expeditions, Carol recalls stories with her parents remarking “Now that one has possibilities,” about Keuka Lake. In 1964, the Worths eventually settled on Elm street in what they turned into the famed Wagener Bed and Breakfast in the village of Penn Yan, one of the first and finest bed and breakfast accommodations in Yates County. So from the ‘get-go,’ the Worth family, and Carol in particular, enjoyed and recognized the wonderful asset that is the Keuka Outlet Trail, which was among the first rails-to-trails initiatives in the country.

“I think my favorite parts of the Keuka Outlet Trail are two; the Hopeton area with the bridge that now goes to nowhere and the swath there to the water that is covered with wildflowers, Jack-in-the-Pulpits and trillium in the spring,” she said. “So many new developments continue to happen along the trail: opening up Cascade Falls and building the gazebo, and exposing the mill foundations at Fox and Seneca Mills Falls. It almost feels greedy to ask for more. But I’d love to see a natural terracing at Seneca Mills so we can stop the erosion and the potential slide of the old mill foundation into the Outlet. We need to provide greater safety to this most utilized section of the Trail.”



She also recalls a fond early memory: “When my boys were young, about 5 and 7 (now 43 and 41!), I would often take them to the Trail to pick berries. I recall my youngest saying, ‘This bush is mine! It’s got sooo many berries!’ I told him I would take the one next to him. My oldest son looked at both of us and said, ‘So, from this bush on are all mine!’”

Like them, I think we all feel such an abundance of gifts when we are on the Trail,” she said.

Updated TRAIL RULES

With ever increasing, year-round trail usage that now includes electric bikes, the FOTO Board of Directors determined that the Keuka Outlet Trail needed to update the Trail Rules to properly guide visitors and ensure their safety. Here is the summary of the updated Trail Rules.

- 1. Trail open sunrise to sunset.**
- 2. Stay on trail. No Swimming. No trespassing on private property bordering trail.**
- 3. No consuming alcoholic beverages without FOTO permit.**
- 4. Events/formal gatherings at Pavilions are by FOTO permit only.**
- 5. No unauthorized solicitation or commercial operations.**
- 6. No unauthorized motorized vehicles on the trail including ATVs, 4-wheelers and remote-controlled vehicles.**
- 7. Electric bikes must keep their speed below 15MPH.**
- 8. No trespassing in or on any buildings or ruins unless designated for public use on the trail.**
- 9. Dogs: may be off-leash only if under control at all times. Remove all pet waste.**
- 10. Share the trail! Pass cautiously and alert slower traffic with bike bells or voice commands.**
- 11. Carry In – Carry Out: Leave no trace!**
- 12. No camping or campfires except at Hopeton Campground (available via online reservation).**
- 13. No unauthorized removal of artifacts, plants, historic items, firewood or other materials. Violators will be prosecuted.**

Report vandalism and inappropriate behavior to: Yates County Sheriff’s Department at 315-536-4438. Call 911 in an emergency.

Volunteers Always 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.



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, 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 improvement 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**

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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.

