

Friends of the Outlet Newsletter featuring the Keuka Outlet Trail

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KOT Reflections

- Letters from our Members

It is estimated by the Yates County Chamber of Commerce that 100,000 people use the Keuka Outlet Trail during the year. Many of these users are regulars who are on the trail weekly with friends, family and pets. One such couple was Cynthia and Ralph DeFelice. Sadly, Cynthia passed away in May of 2024. After we received many generous donations in memory of Cynthia, we reached out to Ralph to thank him. He sent back a response that I offer as what I hope will be the first of many membership responses to the question why they enjoy the Outlet Trail. We invite members to submit memories they have or even poetry or essays they have developed about the Keuka Outlet Trail for consideration in upcoming newsletters.

Keith Prather, President FOTO



To the Friends of the Outlet Board of Directors,

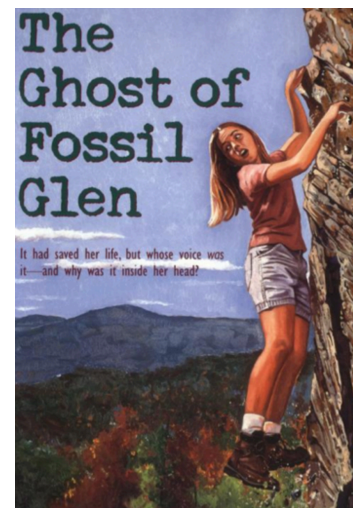
I think it was Mark Twain who said, "Sorry about this long letter, but I didn't have time to write a short one."

In a recent letter documenting the donations in memory of Cynthia Carter DeFelice, I was asked, what do I do?

There are so many things we loved about walking on the Outlet Trail. As users of the trail since it was formed, it feels like we have taken thousands of walks on the trail. We love the trail and say, "Leave it as it is, a multipurpose trail with dogs allowed off their leashes."

There is so much wildlife to enjoy if you go at the right time of the day or year. We have seen countless birds, deer, minks, beaver, wood chucks, possums, turkeys, red and gray squirrels and even a family of weasels under the port-a-pot at the Hopeton parking lot. One day, we were amazed to see a brown bear.

We spent our life on that trail walking our dog so many times. In addition, we have cross country skied, snowshoed, fished, identified birds and



photographed the beauty that surrounded us on our adventures. We never were hunters, rode snowmobiles or horses, but we did not object to these pursuits on the trail.

Cynthia was a great storyteller and author having written 28 novels and picture books for young readers. Some of her books referred to places in this area or specifically to “The Trail”. Book titles, Signal, Ghost of Fossil Glen, Fort, and Ghost of Cutler Creek were a few.

<https://cynthiadefelice.com/>

Over the years, we have met a lot of the maintenance crew. They are an incredibly dedicated and hard working crew. They are great people. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Ralph (Buzz) DeFelice

Celebrate Cascade - 4th Annual Success

As the photos below attest, the 4th Annual-40th Anniversary Celebrate Cascade on Saturday, September 21, 2024, was a terrific day for great music, local foods and beverages, and community

groups to enjoy the best venue anywhere for an outdoor celebration. The ravine wall was again the perfect musical backdrop, and this year everyone revelled in the sweet sounds and dancing tunes of Blue Eyed Soul. Visitors tasted refreshments from Anthony Road Wine Company, Apple Barrel Orchards, Climbing Bines Hop Farm and Brewery, Seneca Farms Ice Cream, & True Roots Food Truck. Adding to the collective delight was the addition of many new Friends of the Outlet members and receipt of over \$1000 in donations. Thank you everyone, especially our sponsors.



Thank you to the event sponsors of Celebrate Cascade 2024!



Willow Running on the KOT

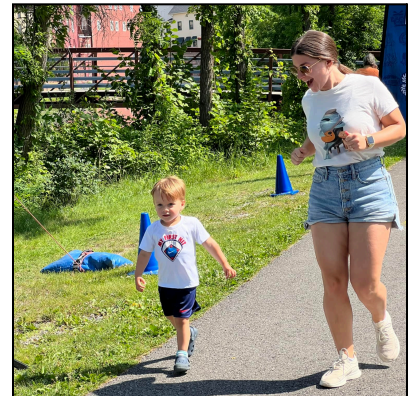
Where Run and Fun become ONE!

This past year, Willow Running USA sponsored two great events on the Keuka Outlet Trail with a Half Marathon and 10K race in July and the 2nd Annual Mill to Mill 5K/10K in September. Between the two events, there were 230 participants in ages ranging from 14 to 70 and from hometowns from as far away as Texas and Toronto! The Friends of the Outlet welcomes everyone, and also thanks Willow Running for a \$1,250 donation that helps with upkeep and volunteer support, both crucial to the success of these Fun & Run events. Save these dates for 2025:

- ★ Saturday, July 19 - Half Marathon/10K
- ★ Saturday, Sept. 13 - Mill to Mill 5/10K with the 5th Annual Celebrate Cascade Festival following.



More great photos can be found on their Willow Running Facebook page and website:
<https://www.facebook.com/willowrunningevents> or www.willowrunning.com



Pass the Pasta Please!

We were so busy, we forgot to take photos! The Spaghetti Dinner located at the Duck Hunters Club on October 18, 2024 was a huge success and we are grateful to board member Tim Chambers and his lovely wife, Peggy for making it all happen.



When an anonymous donor made 250 to-go meals available to Dundee Rocks and Penn Yan's The Living Well, the charitable act rebounded in our community like a boomerang. Two essential not-for-profit community groups helped their special populations while the beloved Keuka Outlet Trail also benefited. Together, with the dinner tickets, raffle baskets, Elks Chapter food donations, and the "50/50's," which some winners flipped back into "100/0" by donating their winnings back to the Friends of the Outlet, the event raised \$5,500!

"It was a win-win-Win-WIN, indeed! Thank you to all the volunteers including the Maintenance team, board members, association staff, basket donors, attendees, and even Mother Nature for the beautiful fall evening," Keith Prather, FOTO president said. "We hope this annual event continues to grow not only in support for the Trail, but in memberships, community outreach, and just a fun evening with great food, friends and in a great place. And, by the way, Tim and Peg's sauce is the best."



Original Oil Painting by Charles R. Northrup, Jr. of Seneca Mill Falls Donated for Fundraising Auction

A prolific painter who captured numerous scenic vistas all around the area, Charles "Charlie" Raymond Northrup, Jr. was also a WWII veteran who earned a Bronze Star. He was a family man and with his wife, Bette, of many years, they raised four children together in the Rochester area. After

working for many years at Delco Products in Rochester, Charlie retired, and with Bette they relocated to Penn Yan where he could finally paint full time. When Charlie passed in 2017 at age 93, he left an impressive body of work with many connections to the Finger Lakes region.

Eileen O'Reilly of Dresden is the former owner and founder of the Belknap Hill Bookstore, which served downtown Penn Yan for more than two decades at 106 Main Street, just two blocks from the Keuka Outlet Trail. From a 2014 posting on the Old Scrolls blog, we see this picture of Eileen in her shop and at the right of the photo is an easel likely displaying one of Charlie's paintings.

A prolific painter herself, as well as an entrepreneur and former graphic designer in New York City, Eileen and Charlie shared a deep love of the arts. It was serendipity that they both wound up in Penn Yan in their later years. That serendipity continues today as Eileen has donated one of Charlie's signature paintings to the Friends of the Outlet for a future fundraising auction and raffle.



“Charlie and I go way back and I’m sure he’d be honored to have his work support the Keuka Outlet Trail. He painted along the Trail a lot, and often had some of his work displayed at the bookstore and on sale,” Eileen said. “I am delighted to make one of his pieces available for such a worthy cause,”

Please stay tuned for more information about upcoming fundraiser events in 2025 where this original, 16 x 20” oil painting of Seneca Mill Falls framed in a decorative golden wooden frame with linen matting will be made available.

Hopeton Campground Update - Successful First Season, but None Too Sunny



The first year of the Hopeton Campground sponsored by the Keuka Outlet Trail has been completed. Several local scout troops took advantage of the campground this year and a few campers enjoyed the facilities, albeit most had to do so in the rain. Unfortunately, the majority of the campers booked reservations on rainy weekends, causing many cancellations. “It is a shame more people did not enjoy this wonderful campground. The campsites are clean, we have a well maintained bathroom (port-a-pot), there are new nearby trails to enjoy and you can have the place

to yourself almost any weekend,” quipped Hopeton Campground ranger volunteer, George Wunder. Campground reservations can be made through the Keuka Outlet Trail website.

This year several trails were made from the campground extending into the woods



surrounding the property. One trail starts by the lean-to and makes a nice loop around the upper property, ending back at the campsite by camping lot #3. This trail is less than a mile long and marked by red tape. There are two additional trails that connect with the main Outlet Trail. These trails are marked with blue tape. One is a more rigorous trail going down a steep embankment. The other trail is longer but has a less severe grade downhill.



The campground will reopen in 2025 on May 1st. The campground closed on October 1st to avoid conflicts with local hunters. If a party or scout troop would like to use the campground in the off season, email the website to inquire. Accommodations can be made for groups looking to do winter camping. We hope anyone interested in tent camping will take advantage of the Hopeton Campground next summer. We would love to see more groups and campers enjoying this beautiful spot!

Right of Way Signs Posted and Trail Rules

New Keuka Outlet Trail rules signs will be posted before spring 2025. There are few changes to the rules. Consumption of alcohol, camping along the trail and removal of firewood is not allowed along the Keuka Outlet Trail. Also, 4 wheelers, remote control vehicles and other motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail. E-bikes are permitted but should be driven at 15 mph or less. If you see a violation of these or any posted rules, please report it via email to the Friends of the Outlet Board. Contact information is on the website.

In addition, there are trail right of way signs that will be posted with the help of the incredible Maintenance Team, including **Mike Bishop** (photo). These signs designate who has the right of way on the trail. Horses have the right of way above all users on the trail. Bikes should stop and let horses proceed by them and walkers, hikers, etc. should step off the trail to let horses pass. Bikers should use bells and call, “On your left”



when passing walkers, hikers, etc. and then pass on the left of them at a reduced speed to avoid accidents.

Friendly Reminder of the Keuka Outlet 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 15 MPH.**
- 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.

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.keukaoutletrail.org/membership>.

Or send a check to: *Friends of the Outlet*,

PO Box 125, Penn Yan, NY 14527 (Note:** New P.O. Box Address!)**

Please include with your payment your:

Full Name / Email Address / Postal Address

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

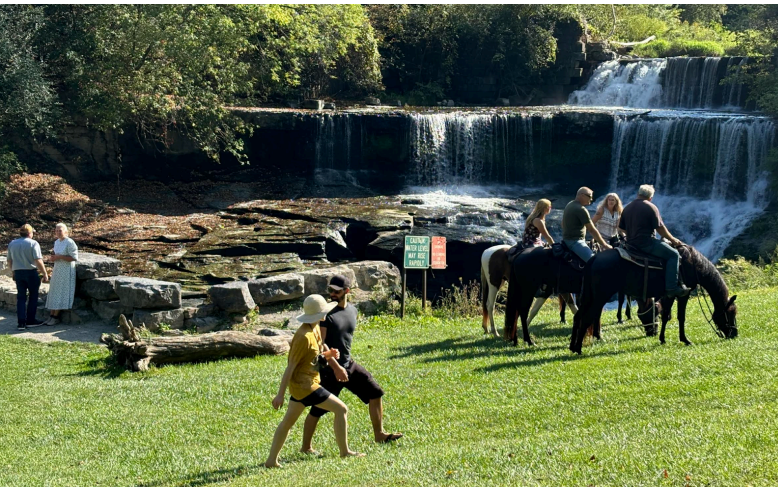


Photos by Burney Baron



Seneca Mill Falls Then and Now and Next...?

- Unique in the world ecologically.
- Special to the Haudenosaunee.
- Desirable to tourists and colonists.
- Profitable to merchants and industrialists.
- Enjoyable to outdoor enthusiasts.
- Challenging to kayakers.
- Home to wildlife.



Seneca Mill Falls has long been an important attribute to locals and visitors of all kinds. This special spot is the most frequently visited site along the entire Keuka Outlet Trail. (See adjacent photo!) The Seneca Mill Falls Parking Lot often overflowed this past summer.

Friends of the Outlet already commissioned their own study and a preliminary plan to address the crumbling infrastructure on the edge of Seneca Mill Falls. In the coming year, the Friends of the Outlet are focused on fine-tuning the plan and securing special grants or funding to address the millsite repairs.



Please stay tuned on this topic!

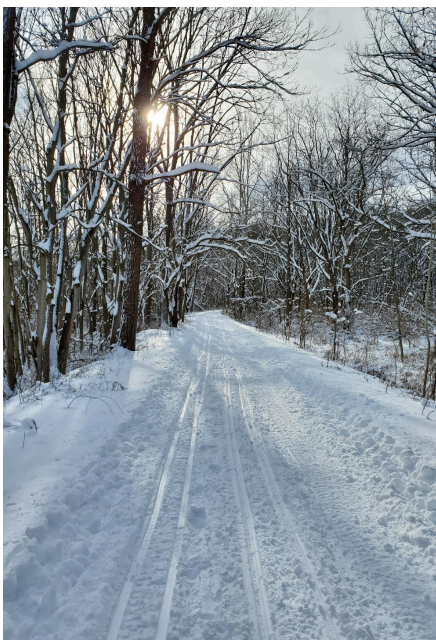
Millsite Monitors: Our Trailside Eyes, Ears and Energy

This is our second year of deploying Millsite Monitors who help make sure each Keuka Outlet Trail site and the trail in between is safe, free of trash, vandalism, and fully stocked. This fall we added both Jean Orcutt and Judy Hillyard to our group. Allison Stewart, Denise Hopkins and Dameon Clemons are some of the originals. Each monitor walks their section of the Trail weekly in summer, monthly in winter. They bring gloves, a dry rag for cleaning signs, trash bags, Trail Maps, and their water bottle or thermos to hydrate. Their duties include:

- Walk weekly & follow-up text or email if problems during high season (April 1 - Nov 1)
- Monthly walks & follow-up reports off season (Nov. 1 - March 30)
- Pick up any litter and dispose of off site
- Wipe down trail signage (wet rag is usually all that is needed)
- Report any trail concerns such as down trees or vandalism
- Replenish the supply of Trail Map Guides
- Check and rate porta-potties for toilet tissue, hand sanitizer, cleanliness
- Any lost and found items go to Stork Insurance Agency at 136 Main Street, Penn Yan

Each Millsite Monitor covers one of the following sections of the 7.2 mile Trail named by the former mills.

1. Cherry St. to Fox Mill
2. Fox to Milo Mill
3. Milo to Seneca Falls Mill
4. Seneca Mill to Cascade Falls Mill
5. Cascade Mill Falls to Hopeton Mill
6. Hopeton Mill to Dresden



We are so grateful for each monitor's participation and encourage YOU to step up and join the small but mighty Millsite Monitor team. We hope to give our original monitors a break, and include you as a new Friend of the Outlet trail volunteer.

If monitoring and walking doesn't excite you, we have lots of other volunteer opportunities. Want to take pictures or video for our Facebook page? How about helping to secure grant funding? Or participating in one of many special events? Just contact me. Carol Worth 315-719-4805.

Current Friends of the Outlet: Officers, Board of Directors and the Maintenance Team:

<p>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 Judson Reid Kenneth Walker Carol Worth</p>	<p>Thank you to the Keuka Outlet Trail 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 Eric Sheldone Terry Shoff John Warner</p>
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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.



Ralph (Buzz) and Cynthia DeFelice on the KOT