

Friends of the Outlet Newsletter featuring the Keuka Outlet Trail



Seneca Mill Falls: The Vision for Future

As the Keuka Outlet Trail continues its ever-evolving transformation toward an internationally acclaimed recreation outlet for all, the recent work and investment seen at Cascade Falls (see stories below) feels a bit like a “primer” or maybe a model for what is being considered and proposed at Seneca Falls. Just one mile west of Cascade lies the largest waterfall on the Outlet stream. At 40 feet tall, it offers one of the most substantial pieces of remaining millwork on the trail where dozens of mills and prosperous businesses once flourished.

Not inclined to rest on their laurels, the dedicated Friends of the Outlet maintenance crew quickly applied their lengthy experience and expertise to their next concern - specifically the structural hazard of the old block walls around Seneca Falls. With financial support from the Lions Club and Sessler Wrecking, a Preliminary / Concept

Master Plan for the Seneca Mill Site was developed by Sue Steele Landscape Architecture and presented to the Friends of the Outlet in August.

The 20-page document features dozens of images including existing conditions, a Concept Master Plan showing grades and elevation, as well as multiple-view concept sketches produced in CADD. (Two are below). The project goals are to develop a long term master plan for user enhancements including access to the water as well as safety for visitors and the maintenance team.



Of course, anyone interested in supporting this project with their time, talent, energy and resources will be welcomed with open arms and a hiking high-five. “The Seneca Mill site remains the most popular destination along the trail. Many times in the summer season, cars must park along the road because the lot is full,”

Steve Stork, FOTO president said. "After the successful transformation of Cascade with its picnic pavilion and repurposing the foundation of a derelict building as a viewing and fishing platform, we're looking, well - upstream toward our next important project. The Steele study does a great job of showing us the way. As a 100% volunteer-run organization, we hope the community will support the coming efforts."

Join Us!

- Board Members Needed -

Becoming an active board member is perhaps the best way to support the Keuka Outlet Trail and positions are becoming available this spring. The nine-member board generally meets each third Monday of the month at 7:00pm. And for some strange reason, the board tends to enjoy congregating at places where adult beverages can be purchased - yet meetings are generally kept to about 90 minutes.

The biggest beauty of being a board member of the KOT is putting your particular passion and skills to work and seeing your efforts make a difference. Like social media? Come post with us! Enjoy working with power tools? Help build the new campground! Like writing or photography? Help enhance this newsletter! Web savvy? Oh my, could we use a little help in that area which can be done entirely from the comforts of your own home on your own schedule.

Please consider volunteering for the KOT in some capacity when making your 2023 New Year's Resolution. There really is something for everyone to do.

- Introducing the New Mill Monitors -

For snowbirds, retirees, or a nice shared responsibility for a student club or civic group, the new Mill Monitors is a great way of directly supporting the KOT while offering plenty of autonomy and self-direction. Mill



Monitors are assigned a specific area of the trail to visit regularly to pick up trash, report any concerns, refill dog do-do bag receptacles, and take a quick peek at the status of the porta-potty. Weekly visits are needed during the high-traffic season (May-October), but quieter, off season allows for just bi-weekly or monthly monitoring.

Monitors are given a short check-list of items to review, necessary supplies and they set their own schedules. Anyone interested in this program should contact Carol Worth at carolworth280@gmail.com.

Most Creative Donation

When it comes to being the most creative donation that cleverly deployed time, energy, talent and resources leave it to two 10 and 11-year-old close friends to hit a home run with imagination and marketing appeal. Mailyn Breuer and Jayde Pebaquin, met on their basketball team and quickly became fast friends with lots of energy, interests and long-term plans. They also share a love of the KOT, and combined their love into the goal of doing something unique to support it! They created walking sticks and rainbow paintings, sold them all for \$10 each at the Celebrate Cascade event, thereby donating \$40 to the KOT at Oktoberfest Volksmarch the following month! How ingenious is that? They hit their target market with a perfect product;

accessed affordable, locally sourced supplies; applied fun and artistic creativity; and sold out on their first run in less than two hours! Wow! Kudos to these young women entrepreneurs with a heart of gold. Thank you!

It is no surprise that these two friends already have their sights on career opportunities once they hit adulthood. Mailyn is thinking about becoming a designer and while gear and clothing strike her fancy at the moment she is open to other subject areas. Meanwhile, Jayde is interested in the sciences, specifically biology or even marine biology. The mention of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute brought on a quick head shake with a knowing smile and her bright blue eyes! Though Mailyn and Jayde now attend different public schools, the good guidance, interest, and energy of both their parents keeps these kids out and about in common circles where they can't help but be scouting for their next initiative and adventure. We're hoping it will be on the KOT.



Most “Tired” Contribution



A major thank you to Steve Shannon Tire and Auto Center (formerly Trombley Tire) located at 143 E. Elm Street in Penn Yan for accepting more than 20 old tires that had been pulled out of the Outlet stream in the past several years. A hefty pile of tires had accumulated inside the KOT headquarters building adjacent to the Cascade picnic pavilion creating an unsightly and unsafe condition.

“The president of the KOT has to ask a lot of people for their help and support in uncounted ways, and it never ceases to amaze me how many folks in this community step up to the plate,” Steve Stork said. “From one Steve to another, thank you!”

Climbing Bines New Brew Recognizes the KOT - WHISTLE STOP (wet) HOP -

Beer lovers and especially those who like an IPA with a little hop, whet their whistle with a new brew from Climbing Bines. Whistle Stop Hop was introduced at Celebrate Cascade in September. There was a little competition in naming and developing the new liquid libation with a variety of different names and beer types.

Shawn Brennan, of Penn Yan submitted the winning entry and took home a growler of his special beer with a nice swag-bag basket too.



We hope this may be just the beginning of the beer naming and partnerships with some other mouth-watering alternatives. Perhaps a hearty “Stoutlet,” or how about the refreshing “Crooked Trail Ale?” A “Hiker’s Hefeweizen” would make a great contribution to next year’s trailside celebrations.



Climbing Bines and the Keuka Outlet Trail share a deep appreciation of each organization’s distinct area of expertise, but they also share a love of a common location and a proud history. When Climbing Bines opened in 2013 as the vision of co-owner Chris Hansen, another vision and initiative was well underway. Bruce Hansen, Chris’ late father, played an integral role in the creation and development of the Keuka Outlet Trail. In fact, Bruce’s leadership and the ongoing support of the company he founded, City Hill, is recognized at the Seneca Mill Pavilion that bears his name.

“Everyone seemed to love the Whistle Stop Hop, but I also heard enthusiasm for other beer alternatives,” Keith Prather, KOT board member said. “Maybe we should consider a 2023 seasonal calendar of beer release parties. Stranger things have happened.”

Events at Cascade Grow and Glow

Hundreds of Visitors Enjoy Celebrate Cascade and Oktoberfest Volksmarch

Whoever brought the sunny, clear, crisp autumn day to the first annual Celebrate Cascade in 2021 was on double-duty this year because both Celebrate Cascade and the Oktoberfest Volksmarch basked in perfect fall weather.

Approximately 300 friends of the Keuka Outlet Trail gathered on Sunday, September 18, 2022 to share a fun and spirited day celebrating the revival of the Cascade waterfall. The removal of the dilapidated old buildings, chain link and plastic orange fencing gave new life to this gorgeous section of the Keuka Outlet Trail. With music from The Soul Section and St. Vith, and plenty of local refreshments by The Laurentide, Lake Drum, Climbing Bines, Anthony Road Winery and Scout Vineyards and soulful food from LaMonarka and Seneca Farms Creamery - the trailside was hopping with all ages of trail and outdoor enthusiasts. While some folks had planned to attend and had the date long on their calendars, many others just happened upon the event and hopped off their bikes to enjoy the music, refreshments and sunshine. Children's activities included face painting, balloon creations, chalk artistry and construction of the Magical Monarch by Idea Collective, and cornhole tossing attracted many including a few between-set band members.

"I think we are onto something special with Cascade hosting a variety of events throughout the year," Steve Stork said. "And we'd be remiss if we did not specifically thank Arcadis who paid for the cost of the demolition and clean-up of the two old buildings next to Cascade Falls. They were a pleasure to work with during the process and Sessler Wrecking did an outstanding job on their behalf getting the job done safely, on time, and introducing beautiful landscaping."

Celebrate Cascade photos are below or go to [KOT's Facebook album](#). Friends of the Outlet would like to thank the following three sponsors for the Second Annual Celebrate Cascade: Bernunzio Uptown Music, Lyons National Bank and Stork Insurance Agency.





Cascade: Before (left) and After (middle & right photos) the Demolition

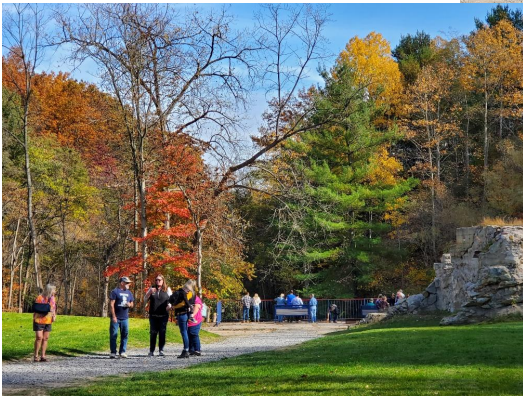


KOT Oktoberfest with the First-Ever, Yates County Volksmarch



Eins zwei drei d'suppa and prost were on the tongue and in the air for four hours as the Apple Strudel Gang, a German band from Pennsylvania played at the Friends of the Outlet's first Oktoberfest on October 23, 2022. With fabulous weather and spectacular trees in the gorge the smell of Schnitzels, sauerbraten and pretzels were accompanied by fresh autumn beer and fine wines. Visitors walked, biked and drove in for this free event, and sat on straw bales for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. American Volkssport Association walkers from Niagara Falls, Albany and across New York and Pennsylvania came out to complete the sanctioned 5K or 10K community walk. Our new friends were grateful for Oktoberfest and raved about the quality of our trail. Several spoke of coming back for X-C Skiing this winter. See you soon!

- Rob Schwarting



“These Guys Are Amazing”

So read the front page headline in the Finger Lakes Times on October 15, 2022, which was no exaggeration. Reporter Mike Hibbard’s subhead stated, “Volunteers are essential to the condition of the Keuka Outlet Trail.” Clearly, he understood how much the KOT maintenance crew impacts the trail on an everyday basis, but also with long term plans and developments.

While daily maintenance includes mowing, trimming of branches, trash removal and cutting down dead trees, the crew also removes old railroad ties, reinforces or replaces bridges, and continues to uncover old mill remnants and create side-loop trails that add places of peace and solitude, as well as better access to the Outlet waterway for fishing.

Among their new accomplishments and endeavors the past few months:

Handrails at Cascade Falls- Mike Bishop recently created and installed handrails on the new viewing and fishing platform just downstream and a little east of Cascade Falls.



Fox Mills- Using a brush hog and a lot of labor allowed the clearing of underbrush, weeds, small trees and limbs to unearth the remains of Fox Mills. This effort uncovered a variety of mill remnants and now offers a new access point to the Outlet stream as well as a new picnic area. This part of the trail is east of Cherry Street on the west side of Fox Mills Road.

St. John’s Mill, just past Cherry Street, is now on the radar for the Maintenance Team. It is hoped that this mill might be the next site unveiled by the maintenance crew. It is believed to be across the Outlet on the southside of the waterway near the bend in the creek. Stay tuned!



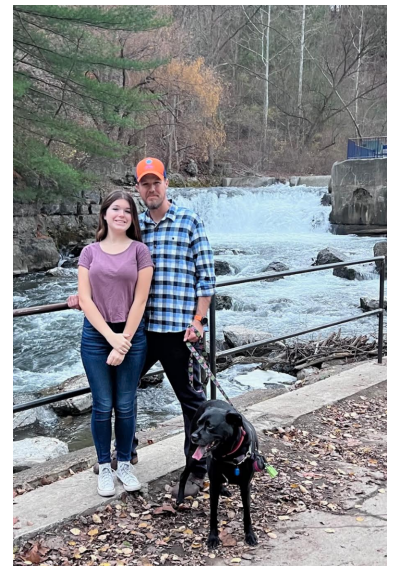
KOT Profile: The Saner Family

- **Welcome Jason (Jay) Saner to the KOT Board of Director and**
- **Introducing Charlotte Saner to the Penn Yan's Starshine**

My parents moved to this area once I graduated high school in Geneseo and while visiting a few years later for a haircut at Elm Street Barber Shop after graduating college I had a chance encounter. Two weeks later, I started my first career right in Penn Yan at what was then "Badger Interconnect Corporation." Many iterations later, I'm fortunate to say that most of my career has been in or at least around Penn Yan and now, some 26 years later, as the President of Abtex in Dresden. This area of the world and the people who choose to live here are special, and that is always foremost in my mind watching the sun come up over Seneca Lake on my drive to work. Both my wife Kelly and I enjoy the opportunity to serve the community and raise our two children.

Our daughter, Charlotte is running for "Miss Penn Yan," which is an annual event pairing young women with non-profits and challenges them with the question "What would you do if crowned Miss Penn Yan?" Typically many of the young women establish platforms that will benefit the community in some way and it's always one of the most anticipated events of Starshine, just after visiting Santa of course! Charlotte feels fortunate to be sponsored by FOTO and is basing her platform around the trail! Make sure to come out on December 4th to hear her present her platform!

- ***Favorite site aspect of the KOT?*** Charlotte likes the waterfalls, especially when they're running strong but my favorite aspect is the "new" Cascade event area, the natural acoustics for live music are incredible!
- ***Historical connection to the KOT or the region:*** I live in the village of Penn Yan and work in Dresden - I can run or ride back and forth anytime I want! The trail has always been a part of our life, but during the worst of the recent pandemic, we were on it almost everyday and it always gave us peace of mind.
- ***Big Wish for the KOT:*** Charlotte hopes that more and more people are able to enjoy it and I hope that we keep finding ways to host more and more community events out on the trail so people not only enjoy it, but also learn it's dynamic history and how it did so much to shape life in our area.
- ***Little Wish for the KOT:****We both agree here: Headlight Hikes and maybe even a 5K!!*
- ***Last book read &/or movie watched:*** Charlotte has been watching Horror movies and is reading the "Alice Project". I don't watch scary movies as a rule and I am just finishing "The End of the World is Just the Beginning"!!
- ***Favorite FLX refreshment:*** Oh boy, I just had a "Barrel Aged Riesling" at Wiemer that literally blew my mind - Charlotte's is a Latte from Amity.



GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS for Family & Friends ~ Near or Far!

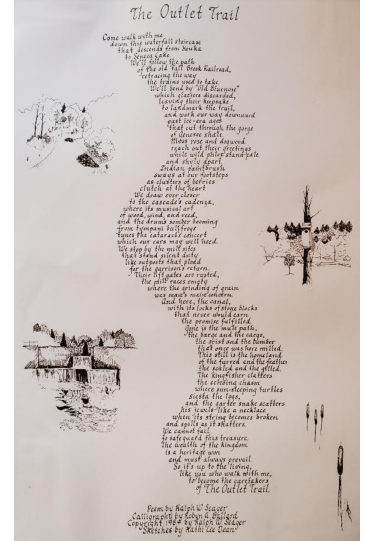
Friend of the KOT Membership:

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 and enjoy a fun and easy outing. How about making these folks Friends of the Outlet this holiday season? Maybe an individual member (\$20), or a group/family membership (\$40), or just a beloved puppy dog who probably loves the trail most of all! (\$10 Pet Patron). Next time they visit, they will have a special connection to the trail, you'll be supporting a local treasure, and...you'll have one less person to shop for!

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 for framing. 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>



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 Vision for the Future described in the first article. Imagine walking the trail with a distant relative next summer and exploring the new Campground, stopping at the Cascade Pavilion for lunch, or looping through one of the new side trails the maintenance team created. Please tell at least five friends something you love about the Keuka Outlet Trail and ask them to consider becoming members too. Thanks!

Memberships can easily be submitted at <http://www.keukaoutlettrail.org/membership> using PayPal.

Or send a check to: **Friends of the Outlet, PO Box 65, Dresden, NY 14441**

Please include: Full Name / Email Address / Postal Address.

___ \$20 Individual ___ \$40 Family ___ \$10 Pet (each) ___ \$100 Booster

Current Friends of the Outlet Officers and Board of Directors:

Steve Stork, President	Deb Clancy
Keith Prather, Vice President	Rob Schwarting
Megan Wilkinson, Treasurer	Donna Rae Sutherland
Lizzy Lafferty, Secretary,	Chet Thompson
Phillip Rahr, Past President	Kenneth Walker
	Carol Worth