



The Clark Chronicle

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From the Chair...

Welcome to our summer issue! Finally winter is over and we can enjoy the sunny, warm days here at Clark Reservation. We have a new naturalist this summer-Jeffrey Capomaccio. He'll be staffing the Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays.

We also have several volunteers who will be staffing the Nature Center during the week. So, in additional weekends from the Nature Center will also be open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11-3. Please remember that it is staffed **ONLY** by volunteers during the week. Unfortunately if a volunteer is unable to come in, the Nature Center will be closed for that day. Let me know if you would like to be on our sub list!

We had a great turnout for our Annual Father's Day Hike. Don Leopold was unable to



attend this year, so our own Mike Serviss, Conservation Project Coordinator stepped up to the plate! Thank you so much, Mike. It was also our annual meeting, so a big thank you to the board members that renewed their commitment and also to our new board member Karen Sheckells.

There is a lot happening at the Nature Center this year-a new geology display is already up, we'll be getting new cabinets and tables and some remodeling. Stop in often to see the changes. Join us on our hikes and programs on the weekend. And as always, if you'd like to be a member and or volunteer; contact me at trsmzc@yahoo.com or 315-415-8377! See you this summer!

*Tina Redmond, Chair
Friends of Clark Reservation*

Welcome Our 2018 Naturalist!

*by Angela Weiler
Friends Board Member*

This summer's Naturalist at the Clark Reservation Nature Center is Jeffrey Capomaccio. Jeffrey is from the Rochester area; he has an associate's degree in biotechnology from Monroe Community College. While at Monroe, Jeffrey was President of the Biology Club, earning the club two awards in that position. He currently majors in biotechnology at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. His research interests include nutrition, human physiology and green biotechnology, and he is especially interested in phytoremediation, which is a technology that harnesses plants to remove pollutants from any given

contaminated site.

Jeffrey began work as our Naturalist on Memorial Day weekend, and he has already found a number of fascinating creatures (including a milk snake that had just eaten two mice!). He brings them into the Nature Center to show visitors, releasing them back to the wild at the end of the day.

Jeffrey will be staffing the Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 to 3; volunteers will staff the Center Wednesdays through Fridays from 11 to 3. If you're in the park on a weekend, stop in and see Jeffrey's "catch of the day"!



*Clark Naturalist
Jeffrey Capomaccio*

I Love My Park Day

by Collette Charbonneau
Environmental Education Steward

Volunteering is a productive way for a person to show their love for a park or other natural area. Here at Clark Reservation, we welcomed

75 volunteers from around the region to celebrate the 7th annual I Love My Park Day. Each year, this event is organized by Parks and Trails New York and several partners, including the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. Their goal is to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to

spend a couple of hours helping maintain and protect parks across the state.

Volunteers signed up online or in person

the day of the event and chose from a variety of service needs including picking up garbage on the trails, pulling the invasive garlic mustard plant, tidying up the nature center, clearing and weeding the native gardens, or collecting sugar maple leaves for snails being studied at SUNY-ESF. The endangered Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail is currently only found at nearby Chittenango Falls State Park and researchers at the college are trying to learn more about them to help protect their population. Afterwards, snacks and water were available for our dedicated, hard-working helpers thanks to a donation by Green Hills Farms.

After just a couple of hours of walking the trails, volunteers filled five 13-gallon size bags with trash and seven bags with garlic mustard! Eight smaller grocery-size bags were filled with sugar maple leaves, which could feed the snails for up to three months!

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported Clark Reservation for I Love My Park Day this year. We invite individuals, families, and groups to join us next year for another opportunity to give back to the park.



Have You Seen Me?

by Dean Kolts
Friends Board Member

"Honey, did you bring the sunscreen?" No need, if you live inside a hard shell!

The top part of a turtle's shell is called a carapace, while the bottom portion is the plastron. The painted turtle's plastron is yellow. Their carapace is dark and smooth with red and black margins, made of bone and connected to their spine and ribs. They consist of 13 bone plates called shutes. Each year, as they grow, the outer shute is replaced with a larger one, leaving a visible ring. These rings can be counted to determine their age, much like the rings on a tree. They can live 40-50 years in the wild.

The females can be 4"-10" long, larger than the males which average 5"-7". They both have yellow stripes on their cheeks and throat. They live in shallow watery habitats with muddy bottoms like lakes, ponds, streams and marshes. Being cold-blooded reptiles, they love to bask on rocks and logs. In winter, they hibernate in the mud under water, without breathing.

Painted turtles mate in early spring. Females leave the water to make nests and lay 2-8 eggs, which hatch in summer. The hatchlings are vulnerable to predators like snakes, bullfrogs, muskrats, raccoons and more.

They are omnivores, feeding on vegetation, algae, crustaceans, insects and fish. They don't have teeth, but have a hard beak used for chewing, although they prefer to swallow their food whole.

Take a walk down to the lake this summer and see if you can spot them sunning on their favorite log.



This trio of painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) were seen catching rays on a log in Glacier Lake.



Lily and Sean remove invasive plants near a patch of hart's-tongue fern

The Fern Crew: 2018

*by Mike Serviss
Conservation Project Coordinator
Clark Reservation State Park*

crew and what they've accomplished in their first two weeks on the job.

The Fern Crew is part of the FORCES (Friends of Recreation, Conservation, and Environmental Stewardship) Program and is tasked with handling all conservation actions related to the protection of the American hart's-tongue fern. This year's crew consists of six young men and women: Kelsey (recent SUNY ESF graduate & returning Fern Crew staff), Abby (Le Moyne intern), Sean (SUNY ESF intern), Lydia (SUNY ESF Work Study), Lily (SUNY Morrisville volunteer), and myself.

Some of you may have read my previous articles about the Fern Crew and their work at Clark Reservation, so I thought this would be a good opportunity to introduce this summer's

The crew started on May 31st with a two day training event at Robert H. Treman State Park (Finger Lakes Region) and began work at Clark Reservation on June 5th. In the 10 days since the crew started work at Clark, they've managed to remove upwards of 10,000 invasive plants (garlic mustard, pale swallow-wort, dames rocket, and honeysuckle), census three reintroduced populations of hart's-tongue ferns, and complete a Wilderness First Aid certificate course at Verona Beach State Park. Needless to say, we are on track to accomplish many great things this summer as we continue to protect Clark's valuable natural resources!

From the DEC: Protect Yourself From Ticks

The most effective way to avoid ticks when outdoors is to avoid contact with soil, leaf litter and vegetation. However, if you hike, camp, hunt, work or otherwise spend time in the outdoors, you can still protect yourself:

- Wear light-colored clothing with a tight weave to spot ticks easily.
- Wear enclosed shoes. If wearing long pants and sleeves tuck your pant legs into socks or boots, and shirt into pants.
- Check clothes and any exposed skin frequently for ticks when you are outdoors.
- Avoid dense woods and bushy areas, as ticks climb upwards to find hosts.
- After returning home, do a full-body tick check and try to bathe or shower within two hours of returning to more easily spot ticks that may be on you. Be sure to check your pets as well!
- Replace plants that deer love to browse with deer-resistant plants. An extremely effective way to kill ticks on exposed clothing is to tumble the clothing in a dryer set on high heat for at least 10 minutes.



Plants, Butterflies, and Kindergarteners, Oh My!

*by Collette Charbonneau
Environmental Education Steward*



On Thursday May 10th, the environmental education team from the Central Regional Office welcomed Bolivar Road Elementary School to Clark Reservation. Despite the cloudy weather and occasional drizzle, 120 kindergarteners completed four stations spread throughout the park. We complemented their science

curriculum by focusing on the life cycle of a butterfly, plant pollination, and the five parts of a plant. They sang a butterfly song, became pollinators with Cheetos "pollen", compared

cucumbers to cauliflower, and explored the Nature Center.

As with all field trips we coordinate each school year, we created activities that aligned with New York State Learning Standards, while encouraging the students to have fun and become more engaged with nature. Field trips allow students to spend part of their school day at the park, where they can explore the nature around them and become stewards of our natural environment. By spending time outdoors, children build their creativity, improve their social skills, and imagine new possibilities.

We would like to thank the teachers, family members, and students who contributed to this successful field trip, as well as New York State's Connect Kids to Parks Program for making this field trip possible.



Friends of Clark Reservation
Clark Reservation State Park
6105 E Seneca Tpke, Jamesville, NY 13078

Please help us with our grant's matching funds;

donate today!

<http://www.councilofparkfriends.org/join.php>

Don't Miss These! Details at <https://www.meetup.com/Clark-Reservation-Meetup-Group/>
and <https://www.facebook.com/pg/NatureCenterCPF/events/>

Sat, July 7, 12 pm: Beginning Birding

Sun, July 8, 11 am: Plogging! (Swedish fitness trend)

Sun, July 15, 11 am: Pale Swallow Wort - Invasive Removal

Sat, July 21, 12 pm: The Tiny World of Mosses

Sun, July 22, 12 pm: Snakes, Insects, and Creepy Crawlers

Sat, July 28, 11 am: Rocky Trails Hike

Sun, July 29, 11 am: Yoga/Calisthenics with Patrick DiBello

Sat, August 4, 12 pm: Edible And Medicinal Native Plants

Sun, August 5, 11 am: Help! Remove Invasive Swallow Wort

Sat, August 11, 12 pm: Lakeside Dragon And Damselfly Catching

Sun, August 12, 12 pm: Native Plants, Dyes, and Utilities

Sat, August 18, 12 pm: Leaves - Chemistry of Color

Sun, August 19, 12 pm: Doggie Social



"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

John Muir

