



The Clark Chronicle

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SUMMER, 2017



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Clark Res Rocks!	2
Fathers Day Walk	2
Got Oak Wilt ?	2
Walk With Mildred	3
Backyard Habitats	3
Wild Parsnip Warning	3

From the Chair...

Welcome to our summer issue! By now our weather has gotten sunny and warm and while Clark Reservation is open year round, this is MY favorite time! We have two new naturalists this summer: Lexi Grove and Lauren Ness. They will be at the Nature Center Thursday and Friday 11-3, Saturday and Sunday 9-4.

We are also very lucky this year to have a crew of volunteers to operate the Nature Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11-3. So you now have SIX days a week to stop in to see all the great things we have in the Nature Center!

There was a great turnout



for our Annual Father's Day Walk with Don Leopold even though the weather was so hot. Don did a wonderful job as always, showing/teaching us so much about the trees here at Clark. It was also our annual meeting, so congrats to our new board members.

Also, the new name of the

newsletter was announced and the winner is... The Clark Chronicle! We had eighteen submissions, and also some votes for keeping the old name. After all the votes came in, The Clark Chronicle was clearly the winner. The winning name was sent in by Zack Redmond. Thank you to all who participated; there were many good ones to choose from.

We have lots of hikes and programs scheduled for this summer, every Saturday and Sunday! Please join us at Clark for hiking, picnicking, visiting the Nature Center, participating in one of our programs, or my favorite: reading in the sun! Hope to see you here!

Tina Redmond, Chair

Nature Center News:

Beginning in February 2017, a committee was formed to explore the options for updating the exhibits and general layout of the Nature Center since the existing format is outdated, incorrect, or no longer pertinent for presentation to the public.

Chaired by naturalist Lexi Grove, the group consists of anthropologist Thomas Santmyer, New York State Parks educators

Katie Mulverhill and Shannon Fabiani, and several members of the Friends of Clark Reservation board.

After an initial evaluation by Tom Meier of Baltimore Woods and visits to several other nature-themed locations, the committee is starting to flesh out a new vision and direction for the Nature Center. Already the taxidermy collection has been

parsed and cleaned, with future plans to renew other exhibits, including the fossil and geology collection.

This makeover will be a 2-3 year venture, but the center will remain open throughout this time, so make plans to come visit us this summer and checkout our progress.

by Dean Kolts

Clark Res Rocks!



Dr. Bryce Hand (right, blue t-shirt) discusses the layers of rock along stairs

On June 10th, the Friends of Clark Reservation hosted a program by Dr. Bryce Hand, Emeritus Professor of Geology at Syracuse University. Participants were treated to an hour-long lecture and presentation, including a general overview of the 4.6 billion year geologic history of planet Earth, and culminating in the specific occurrences that formed the foundation of the underlying rock of the

park. These layers of rock were various ancient seabed and shoreline deposits that had accumulated over millions of years and hardened into limestone.

He explained how the last glaciation, peaking some 23,000 years ago, shaped the Central New York landscape and how the advance, retreat, and final melting of the ice sheets formed the topography of the park and the lake we have today.

After the lecture, the group headed down the stairs toward the lake and Dr. Hand pointed out the different strata and age of the sediments that hardened into rock over time.

Once again, Dr. Hand provided us with a fascinating account of the history and formation of Central New York and Clark Reservation.

by Dean Kolts

Annual Fathers Day Walk



Dr. Don Leopold, center with white cap, leads annual Fathers Day walk

Dr. Don Leopold, Distinguished Teaching Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental & Forest Biology at SUNY ESF, beguiled an inquisitive group of plant enthusiasts at 2 o'clock on Fathers Day, June 18, following the short annual meeting of the Friends of Clark Reservation (FOCR), formerly known as the Council of Park Friends.

Dr. Leopold's extensive knowledge of botany was on display as he identified nearly every shrub and tree he came

across from the parking lot and down the Mildred Faust Trail past Dry Lake. Dr. Mildred Faust was a prominent botanist and Dr. Leopold's mentor. He provided anecdotes of his experiences over the years and also pointed out the distinguishing characteristics of many of the species of flora along the trail. These included differences in bark, leaf structure, history and habitat.

A large proportion of the audience was particularly interested in his personal recipe for a homemade libation which

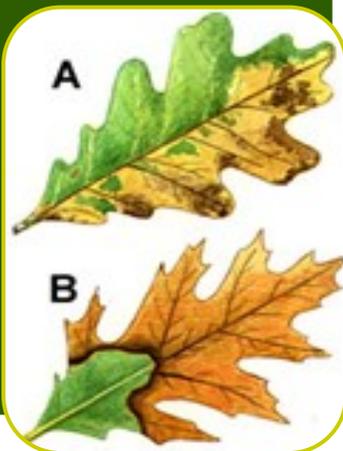
bears repeating here:

- 1) Take one quart vodka, one cup sugar, and one quart black chokecherries (or favorite berry of choice)
- 2) Mix together in August, let ferment until October or November
- 3) Sip, relax, and remain seated

Two hours passed quickly with so much interesting material presented. We certainly thank Dr. Leopold for continuing this tradition and hope to see him again next year.

by Dean Kolts

Symptoms of oak wilt in A. white oak and B. red oak



DEC Press Release:

The NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has announced plans to manage the spread of oak wilt disease. Oak wilt is a fatal tree disease in the eastern United States, and is caused by an invasive fungus. Thousands of oaks are killed each year in forests, woodlots, and home landscapes. Fifteen oak trees were infected by oak wilt in New York during 2016, and all of them have been removed.

You can help! If you notice an oak tree that suddenly loses all or most of its leaves during the months of July or August, report it to the DEC Forest Health Information Line :

1-866-640-0652 (toll-free)

or email foresthealth@dec.ny.gov .

If possible, related photos of symptomatic oaks are encouraged. For more information:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/110478.html>

A Walk With Mildred

After many months of research, planning, designing, and proofing- the new interpretive panels for the Mildred Faust Trail at Clark have been installed! There are five new panels total. One panel replaced the existing Mildred Faust panel on the four-sided kiosk by the Nature Play area. Four panels were put in along the Mildred Faust Trail section that runs along Dry Lake.

The decision to switch from self-guided brochures to interpretive panels was to make the material accessible to anyone walking the trail, without needing

to locate and carry a brochure. Another goal of this project was to incorporate more of Mildred's story into the trail that carries her name while also interpreting significant natural features in the park.

We are very excited to have this new addition to the trail- and we aren't alone! I brought the three young boys I babysit to Clark a few weeks ago right after the panels were put in. We went on an 'adventure hike' along the Mildred Faust Trail and when each panel came into view the

five year old sprinted to it with a look of pure excitement on his face. He is just starting to read and couldn't wait to read aloud what he could to me. A tender, heartwarming hike it was.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this project through its many phases and thank you to Clark Maintenance for installing them- and in time for the Annual Father's Day Hike!

by Shannon Fabiani



Turn Your Backyard Into A Habitat...

“ Native insects can't eat non-native plants ... Birds need insects to raise their young, so when the insects leave, the birds disappear as well ...”

...by planting native plants!

What is a Native Plant? A native plant is any plant that has evolved naturally alongside other plants and animals in a geographic region over thousands of years or more. The geographic regions vary; for instance, a plant that is native to Georgia or Florida might not be native to the northeastern United States (although some plants can be native to wider geographic areas).

What is not a native plant?

Non-native (or exotic) plants are those that have been introduced into a geographic area relatively recently (normally within a few hundred years or so), usually by human activities.

What makes native plants better for the environment, and for my yard, than non-native plants? Native insects can't eat exotic plants, which is one reason they are so popular with landscapers. However, if you only have exotic plants in your yard, insects will seek out native

plants elsewhere. Birds need insects to raise their young, so when the insects leave, the birds, and other species of animals, will begin to disappear as well.

If you want your yard to be more of a balanced habitat, and more inviting to birds, then plant some native plant species that will attract birds' main food source (i.e., insects). When buying plants, be sure to ask for them by their scientific name (genus and species) to be sure of getting a true native.

by Angela Weiler

DEC Alert: Wild Parsnip

“Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is an invasive plant from Europe and Asia that has become naturalized in North America... Brushing against or breaking the plant releases sap that, combined with sunlight, can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours. This reaction, known as phytophotodermatitis, can also cause discoloration of the skin and increased sensitivity to sunlight that may last for years.”

For more information: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/105364.html>





Friends of Clark Reservation
P. O. Box 153
Jamesville, NY New York 13078

Please renew your annual membership!
www.councilofparkfriends.org

Don't Miss These!

July 28th @ 7:30 Stargazing with Barefoot Bob

*Raindate July 29th

July 29th @ 2pm Unbelievable Understory

July 30th @ 2pm Kids Play Leaf Hunt Relay

August 3rd @ 2pm Native Gardens

August 5th @ 10am Introduction to Bird Watching

August 11th @ 2pm Wild About Wildlife

August 12th @ 7pm Night Explorers

August 13th @ 2pm Exploring with Lauren

August 18th @ 2pm Go Nuts! Exploring Food Webs

August 19th @ 2pm Fantastic Ferns with Mike!

August 20th @ 2pm Herp Search

August 25th @ 2pm Wild About Wildlife

August 26th @ 2pm Exploring with Lauren

August 27th @ 2pm Herp Search

**“The clearest way into the Universe is
through a forest wilderness ...”**

— John Muir



**Check out our Facebook page or Meetup
group for more details on programs going on
at Clark Reservation!**

Admission \$5/car on weekends & holidays

