

The Clark Chronicle

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From the Chair...



Finally summer in CNY! We have had a busy, fun-filled spring here at Clark Reservation. We had a great turnout, as usual, for I Love My Park Day; much spring cleaning was accomplished. A big thank you to Catherine Landis and Jim Molloy who graciously stepped in for Professor Don Leopold's Annual Father's Day Hike, they did a wonderful job. Please come back anytime!



chance to show off what's been done so far. There was a good turnout of the board members, Clark staff, and dignitaries. So please come visit the Nature Center this summer and see all the updates and awesome changes! And bring some money with you, as we have our adorable teddy bears for a \$5 donation and some great raffles at \$5.00 a ticket. We're raffling off a wood-turned mushroom, a

cornhole drink holder and a painting of Glacier Lake done by one of Clark's staff.

It's all on display; come and see everything!

*Tina Redmond, Chair
Friends of Clark Reservation*

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Meet our Naturalist...

*by Angela Weiler
Friends of Clark Reservation Board Member*

Cameron Alois is the Nature Center naturalist for the 2019 season at the Clark Reservation Nature Center. Cameron is originally from Baldwinsville and graduated from C.W. Baker High School.

A sophomore at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Cameron has already graduated from ESF's Ranger School this past May. His favorite subject is environmental interpretation, and he enjoys sharing knowledge in a non-obligatory setting. Cameron's plans for the Nature Center's activities include photography, plant and tree ID walks, and ecology topics, and he hopes to have some hikes led by special guests as well.

Cameron will staff the Nature Center on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from 11 am to 4 pm. All other days will be staffed by volunteers from 11 to 3. Stop by and say hello!



Mildred Faust, Botanist

by Joy Pople, Master Gardener
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County



PART I: When Syracuse botanist Mildred Faust would lead a group in the Adirondacks to study its plants, they huffed and puffed their way to the top while their professor, five or six decades their elder, kept right up with them.

“She has a lot of energy,” her students would say. “She would get excited even over the littlest plant.”

Mildred Faust began teaching at Syracuse University in 1927 as an instructor in taxonomy and ecology. She believed that central New York is one of the most prolific places for plants because

of its diverse microclimates. Her career in botany and her stewardship for the land was inspired by the abundant beauty of the flowering plants and ferns in the area.

Millie became a founding director of the Council of Park Friends for Clark Reservation when she began her career at SU. For four decades, Millie used Clark Reservation as an outdoor classroom and teaching laboratory.

We can enjoy many of Central New York’s beloved natural treasures because Millie helped fight to preserve them. Her passion for protecting the natural wonders of Onondaga County was contagious, and she inspired many students to become stewards of the environment. Trails at Clark Reservation and Baltimore Woods bear her name.

(To be continued in the October issue)

Exploring Our Geologic Past At Clark

By Jason Hamidi, Ph.D Candidate
SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry

There was an ice age here, long ago, that shaped the landscape where we live today. Thousands of years ago melting glaciers generated powerful currents of rushing water that carved through the earth. Ancient rivers. Massive waterfalls. Great plunge pools. What a sight it must have been!

It’s safe to say most of us don’t think about geologic processes as we go about our daily lives. We should think about these things, though, from time to time at least. There are natural places all around us that offer glimpses into the past, of nature working on scales and timeframes, that, at first, may seem difficult to imagine or even comprehend. When we take the time to explore these places, and learn about them, it makes life in the present more meaningful.

Clark Reservation State Park is one of those places. It offers visitors a unique view into this area’s geologic past that, when explored, brings added appreciation for life in the present. By exploring parts of the Cliff Trail or the Table Rock Trail, that same riverbed will be right under your feet. It is believed that about 10,000



to 12,000 years ago that river plunged down onto the basin below and formed a deep pool; today Glacier Lake is what remains. The remnants of the falls can be found in the eroded limestone.

Invasive Asian Jumping Worms by Janet Allen, President Habitat Gardening in Central New York—HGCNY.org

Many regions of the country are now being invaded by a worm most everyone, when they see it, recognizes as something new: the “jumping worm” aka “crazy worm” aka “Alabama jumper” aka “Jersey wriggler.” They’re easy to notice since they move on top of the soil, are often larger than our familiar worms, and are super wiggly.

As damaging as our traditional non-native worms can be, these Asian invaders (in the genus *Amyntas*) can rival the damage done by more famous invaders that receive far more publicity. They mature faster than European worms, and they’re parthenogenetic, meaning that females can reproduce without mating. The result can be huge numbers of worms that consume huge amounts of organic matter: native wildflowers, roots of annuals, perennials, shrubs, and even lawns.

here in Central New York and beyond. Local yards are infested. Yours may be, too. You may not notice them in fall and certainly not in winter, but their tiny difficult-to-see cocoons could be there, waiting to emerge in spring.

Incredibly, Asian worms are actually being sold as composting worms and as fishing bait. Don’t buy them! And don’t dump unused “regular” fishing worms either. Learn more about both the European and the Asian worms and how to identify them:

Great Lakes Worm Watch:

<http://www.greatlakeswormwatch.org>

The Nature Conservancy’s Cool Green Science blog:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8f2b9w2>

What’s left? Not healthy soil that supports plant and animal life, but clumpy, granular soil that easily compacts and is prone to erosion. The most shocking fact: They’re already



I Love My Park Day 2019 by Gordon Heisler, Board Member Friends of Clark Reservation

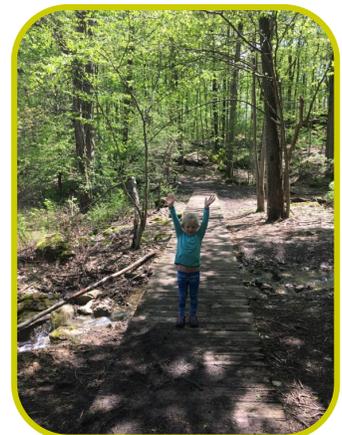
May 4, “I Love My Park Day”, dawned cloudy and suggestive of a possible shower, but 48 FOCR members, Office of Parks (OPRHP) employees, and others turned out for 2 hours of park-improvement. The shower never came and the temperature was just right. In the small pavilion, participants donned ILMPD tee shirts and chose from six different projects to work on.

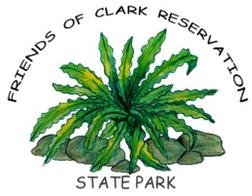
Mike Serviss, OPRHP Conservation Project Coordinator, led a group to remove invasive species, an especially fun activity according to several volunteers. Cleaning the nature center had Environmental Educator Katie Mulverhill leading the way and dusting mounted wildlife. Six enthusiastic employees of News Channel 9 helped Angela Weiler weed and remove spent plant tops in the Native Garden. Four young people went with member Steve Shope to straighten up the play ground. Dean Kolts guided four hardy volunteers in removing moss that was damaging many of the 170+ steps to Glacier Lake. Seven sturdy hikers covered most of the park trails, checking for trash and problems such as missing signs or broken fences. After the work, participants returned to share their accomplishments, snack on treats, and find out who would win the drawing for a very attractive bird house.



Storytime and Nature Play by Tina Redmond, Chair Friends of Clark Reservation

Do you have school age children? Bring them to Clark Reservation every other Tuesday for our new summer program “Storytime and Nature Play”. Our intern, Molly, will be leading this program along with the librarians from Jamesville & Dewitt Library. It will start with nature stories read by the librarian. Then Molly will have a variety of activities for the children, all with a nature theme that ties in with the books. The dates for these are: July 2, July 16, July 30, Aug 13 (and possibly Aug 27). Storytime and Nature Play starts at 1 pm and lasts about an hour. Come join the fun!





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

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Don't miss these!

Details/updates at <https://www.meetup.com/Clark-Reservation-Meetup-Group/>
and <https://www.facebook.com/pg/NatureCenterCPF/events/>

7/2, 7/16, 7/20, 8/13: Nature Play and Story Time, 1 pm
7/4: Capture the American Flag, 1 pm
7/7 and 7/27, 8/4 and 8/24: 8 am: Yoga in the Park - FREE
7/6: "Out of the Cage" Pet Mobile, 1 pm
7/7: People and Nature, 1 pm
7/13: Birding and Wildlife Spotting, 1 pm
7/14: Macro, Landscape, and Wildlife Photography, 1 pm
7/20: Paws on the Path- Dog Hike, 1 pm
7/28: Tree Facts and Basic Identification, 1 pm
8/3: What Is A Forest, Besides Trees? 1 pm
8/4: An Introduction to Insects, 1 pm
8/10: Birding and Wildlife Spotting, 1 pm
8/11: People and Nature, 1 pm
8/17: Basic Photography Hike, 1 pm
8/24: Out of the Cage Pet Mobile, 1 pm
9/12: Annual meeting, Volunteer Thank You, Community



"Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

- Henry James

