



Photo by Dean Kolts

The Clark Chronicle

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From the Chair...

Welcome! Hopefully the snow is gone by the time you are reading this. I did manage a little hiking this winter, but I am definitely looking forward to doing it without a heavy winter coat on!

A bit of history: Council of Park Friends was originally formed in 1980 to support all parks in Central New York, hence the "council" part of the name. Over time Clark Reservation became the only park supported by the group. We've been asked frequently what our initials (CPF) stand for, and what the "Council of Park Friends" is. There is also another organization in Central New York that goes by "CPF". So, after much discussion, we are now calling ourselves "Friends of Clark Reservation", which more reflects who we are and what we do.

May 5th will be our annual "I Love My Park Day" from 10 am to noon. There will be all kinds of cleanup activities for volunteers, from picking up trash to pulling the invasive garlic mustard to painting signs to spring cleaning the Nature Center. Children are welcome with adult

supervision. Water and snacks are provided; bring your work gloves and join us.

June 17th is our Father's Day Walk with ESF Professor Don Leopold. Our annual meeting is held at 1:30 pm in the small pavilion, followed by the walk. Professor Leopold is very entertaining as he tells us about the many trees and plants here at Clark's. We'd love to have you join us.

Something new this year: Yoga in the Park! It will be held early on a weekend morning; check our website, Facebook page, and Meetup for details as they become available.

Our board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 5:15 in the conference room in the Central Region Administration Office (to the left when you come into Clark's). We love to see new faces and we welcome your input! Please call, text or email me at 315-415-8377 or trsmzc@yahoo.com for any questions or info. See you on the trails!

*Tina Redmond, Chair
Friends of Clark Reservation*



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Friends of Clark Awarded Grant!

*by Angela Weiler
Board Member*

On March 5th, the Friends of Clark Reservation was awarded an \$8,500 matching grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund's (EPF) Park and Trail Partnership Program. These funds will be used to improve the exhibits at the Clark Reservation Nature Center and to update informational materials. The Friends group will have to raise an additional \$1,500 in matching funds, for a total of \$10,000 for the project.

Clark Reservation's Friends group is a nonprofit organization comprised solely

of volunteers. The group sponsors virtually all events and exhibits at the Clark Reservation Nature Center and Native Plant Garden, and the Nature Center is staffed and equipped primarily by these volunteers. Funds also go toward educational programming and hikes from May through October.

Can you help us raise the matching funds? Each dollar you donate will now have over five times the impact! <http://www.councilofparkfriends.org/join.php> (or send your check to the Friends of Clark Reservation at the address above.)



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Dean Kolts



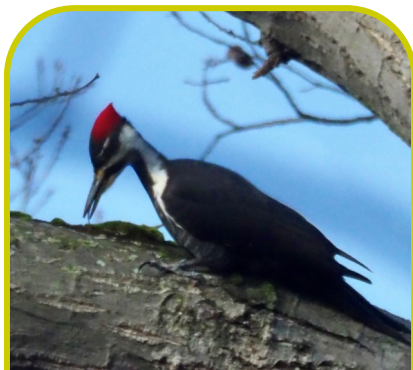
Clark's Glacier Lake

by Whitney Lash Marshall
Board Member

One of the most prominent features of Clark Reservation State Park is Glacier Lake, a unique meromictic lake formed by glacial retreat. Meromictic Lakes have layers of water that never mix together, creating unique conditions for the plants and animals that live in the lake and an incredible view.

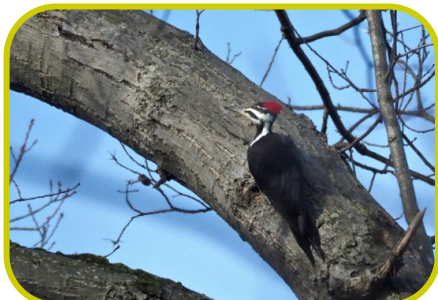
Whether you prefer to gaze down from up on the ridge, or to explore along the lake loop at the water's edge, the process that created this lake is responsible for the dramatic views and sometimes challenging topography that you enjoy as you hike here at Clark. One thing that keeps me coming back each year to look at the lake are the dramatic changes we can see from year to year. For example, in 2016 during a season of little rain we saw lake levels drop quite low, exposing a dramatic brightness

of shoreline (Photo 1). Last year in 2017 the lake levels were more than restored and even flooded the trail along the lake loop for part of the season (Photo 2). Be sure to visit this year to see what 2018 will bring and enjoy all the features of this lake - stop by the nature center to learn more about what you might expect to see in and around the lake!



A female uses her tongue to retrieve food from a limb

Wuk-wuk-wuk-wuk-wuk... drr-drr-drr-drr-drr. With its primeval call and rhythmic drumming, it might be more appropriate if we asked "Have you heard me?", as one of our more elusive inhabitants at Clark is the pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). These strikingly remarkable



A female on the Saddleback Trail in January

Have You Seen Me?

by Dean Kolts
Board Member

birds tend to be shy around humans and will often spot you first and take flight quickly, affording the keenest observer with just a glimpse of its undulating flight.

Once seen, you're apt to remember, as they are the largest woodpeckers in the forest, standing 16 - 19" tall with a wingspan of 26 - 30", with a bright red crest and long bill. The males exhibit a red stripe on the cheek, while females don't. Usually seen in pairs, pileateds are monogamous and mate for life, often finding another mate if one dies. They communicate when out of sight by drumming and show attachment to each other and a nesting site by tapping. Unlike some migrating songbirds, the pair will stay and defend their territory all year, yet sometimes allow new non-breeding arrivals in winter.

Their roosting holes are separate from their nesting holes, and the pair will roost separately in fall and winter. Around mid-April they will begin to excavate a new nest in a tall, dead tree for the breeding season. Nests are large (10-24 inches deep), and take 3-6 weeks to complete, followed by a nesting period of 24-31 days. The clutch usually consists of four eggs and the

family stays together all summer. In fall, the fledglings will search out their own territories. Previously used nests are beneficial to the forest ecosystem and offer shelter to many other species, including birds and small mammals.

Most times, pairs will be seen together as they forage within sight of each other, from high in the treetops to ground level. Their main diet is carpenter ants and other insects, with the occasional berry. They bore large rectangular holes, sometimes clear through to the other side in living trees. Their long tongue is barbed and sticky, used to extricate ants from vertical tunnels within the heartwood of the tree. In 1911, researcher Foster Beal found 2600 ants in the belly of a single pileated woodpecker.

Late winter and early spring provide excellent opportunities for observing woodpeckers. Once the trees leaf out, it's nearly impossible to catch sight of them. Set aside some time this spring and see if you can spot these reclusive phantoms of the forest.



This new hole was found in a live hemlock on the Pulpit Rock trail; note fresh shavings on the ground. (No, the dollar bill is no longer there!)

What a Great Place to Geocache!

by Just Walking (a geocache name)
(aka Howard Nybo)

Clark Reservation is a wonderful park to visit, only a few minutes outside of Syracuse. The park is very well known for its very unique geology, wildflowers, ferns, trees, and at times, difficult trails. And now these trails hold several hidden "geocaches".

A geocache is a small container placed at specific geographic coordinates by people involved in geocaching. The coordinates are determined by longitude and latitude, north by west, in the same way that ships of olden days navigated over the vast oceans. An app on your smart phone shows the coordinates of geocaches; then you point to any one of them and follow very clear guidance to the cache area. You

can get anywhere from 4 feet to 12 feet away from the cache using the app. When you find the cache, you open it and then sign the log. Many caches have "swag", (toys) in them; you can take something, and you can also leave something: Take a toy, leave a toy.

Geocaching is a fun thing to do. You chase all over the park looking for things that are hidden, ranging in size from as small as a thimble to as large as a loaf of bread. Go to Geocaching.com and you will get a very clear outline of this very interesting challenge.

Clark Reservation currently has ten geocaches hidden within the boundaries. Some are very easy to find; others are very difficult. The oldest one was placed in the park on May 1, 2005, and the most recent one was placed on October 20, 2017. Anyone can place a geocache, but the caches must



have a permit from the park to be placed. So far, 1,758 visitors have signed the logs for these caches. The geocacher in New York with the most geocaches found is GadgetCHC (geocache name) with 16,532 caches.

If you are looking for a fun day outdoors, this hobby is worldwide, with over 3 million geocaches in parks, cities, states, and countries. It can be done alone or with any number of family and friends. Enjoy!



Have you ever had the opportunity to walk through a dark forest at night? On February 28th, a rainy day and cloudy night was no deterrent for an intrepid group of hikers who assembled in the parking lot for a full moon hike. Under the guidance of park staffers Katie Mulverhill and Collette Charbonneau, fourteen participants strode along the Mildred Faust and other trails hoping to catch a glimpse of a recalcitrant moon. With no snow on the ground, the experience was almost other-worldly amidst a light fog high in the trees.

Moonlight Hike

by Dean Kolts
Board Member

The clouds broke momentarily a few times to allow the bright moon to shine through, eliciting ooh's and ahh's from the group. Although the moon was obscured most of the time, no one left disappointed.

This has become an annual event the last few years, with hopes of continuing next winter for those interested.



Citizen Science: The Real Deal

by Mike Serviss
Conservation Project Coordinator
Clark Reservation State Park

Never got around to getting that Ph.D. in Astrophysics? Not to worry! It's never too late (or too early) to contribute to science when you're a citizen scientist.

Citizen scientists are volunteers who crowdsource environmental data online or assist experts in producing reliable data for scientific research. These data are critical to better understanding our environment. From migratory bird behaviors to the spread of invasive forest pests to water quality monitoring, there is an area of interest for just about everyone. The best part is: anyone can be a citizen scientist! No experience required!

How does one get involved in citizen science? For the casual nature observer with a smart phone, the iNaturalist app is a must have. For the birder, the eBird app (by Cornell Lab) is revolutionizing how we understand bird behavior. For the pen and paper crowd, the New York State Hemlock Initiative (blogs.cornell.edu/nyschemlockinitiative) is a great way to get involved in the control of the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). For more citizen science opportunities in New York, contact the DEC Fish and Wildlife Division (e-mail: wildlife@dec.ny.gov).



Citizen scientists survey for HWA at Clark Reservation



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

***With our new grant (details inside), your dollar
will have five times the impact - donate to our
matching funds today!***

www.councilofparkfriends.org/join.php

Don't Miss It! (Details will be posted at <https://www.facebook.com/NatureCenterCPF>)

Sat, May 5: 7th Annual "I Love My Park Day"

Join us from 10 to noon to help pull invasives and get the
park ready for summer!

**"April ... hath put a spirit of youth
in everything."**

- William Shakespeare



Free admission from now until Memorial Day!

