



The Clark Chronicle

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From the Chair...

Welcome to the spring edition of the Clark Chronicle! I hope we are at the end of winter and are looking forward to good weather ahead. As you know, the Nature Center is closed during the winter. But we (Friends of Clark Reservation) have still have been working hard on updating exhibits and displays.

It will be good to open up on Memorial Day Weekend for the season. Some displays will be finished, some will be a work in progress. Please join



us that weekend to see all we've done and meet the new summer Naturalist. We are looking forward to sunny days, hikes, events, and continuing our progress at the Nature Center for the spring, summer and fall. Please keep an eye on all that we'll be doing via our website: friendsofclarkreservation.org, Facebook, and Meetup. See you soon!

*Tina Redmond, Chair
Friends of Clark Reservation*

Caution: Turtle Crossing!

from the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation



A reminder from the DEC: New York state's native turtles are on the move in May and June seeking sandy areas or loose soil to lay their eggs. In New York, thousands of turtles are killed each year when they are struck by vehicles as they migrate to their nesting areas.

Here's what you can do to help:

- If you see a turtle on the road, please slow down to avoid hitting it.
- If you can safely stop, consider moving it to the shoulder on the side of the road in the direction

Most turtles can be picked up by the sides of the shell (not by the tail). You can also slide a car mat under the turtle to drag it across the road.

All eleven species of land turtles that are native to New York are declining in numbers. They are protected by law and cannot be kept at home without a permit.

Giving Credit Where Credit is Due:

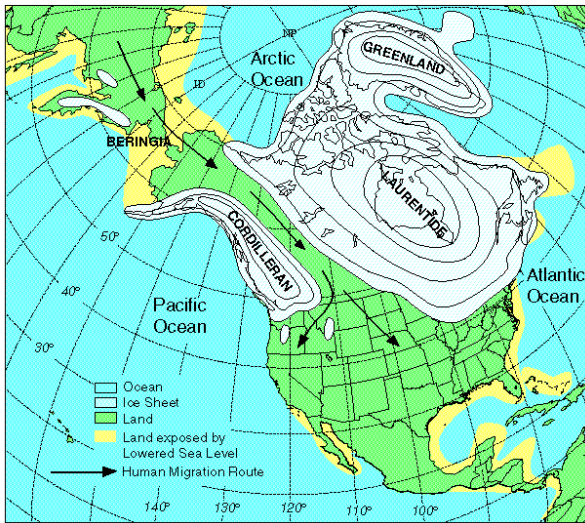
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If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in electronic format, please contact Angela Weiler: awweiler@gmail.com

Pondering Early Humans

by Bryce Hand, Emeritus Professor of Geology
Syracuse University

AMERICA DURING LAST ICE AGE



Map available at

<https://atmos.washington.edu/~dennis/Hartm.ice.new.gif?48,64>

It's been fifteen thousand years since torrents of water from a melting ice sheet poured over the waterfall at Clark Reservation, clearing the outlet canyon to Butternut Valley and scouring out the plunge basin that holds Glacier Lake. Though nobody was taking measurements, reasonable comparison can be made with today's Niagara River. Indeed, the form and dimensions of the rim above Glacier Lake nearly match those of Horseshoe Falls.

Spectacular as our waterfall must have been, it wasn't long before the entire flow switched to routes farther north, leaving Clark Reservation high and dry.

The question I've forever wondered about: Was anyone around to admire Clark's cascade in all its glory?

No one knows when people first arrived in America, but it's in the Northeast that we've found the oldest known settlements and campsites. And the very oldest is Meadowcroft Rockshelter, near Pittsburgh. Initially occupied 16,000 years ago, it remained in use for many thousand years.

So the timing works and there were people nearby in Pennsylvania! Might some have wandered a couple hundred miles north to the retreating ice front and seen our falls in action?

I like to think they did.

Honk if you love to swim! The sight and sound of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) flying overhead in late winter is a welcome harbinger of warmer days ahead. Although we may assume they're all migratory, some are resident geese that remain in our area all year. These are the descendants of captive birds and game farms.

Canada geese mate for life, unless one dies, whereupon the survivor may take another mate. They nest as soon as the ice is gone and waters open, laying 5-6 eggs, of which half may survive. Hatched in late April, the offspring can walk, feed, and swim right away, staying with their parents until the next spring migration, when they'll return to where they were born. They may live from 10-24 years.

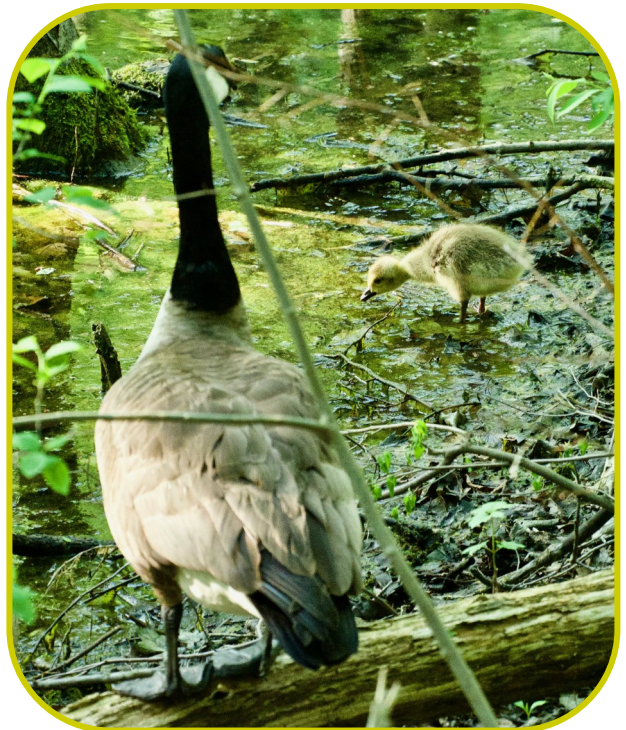
Geese molt from mid-June until late July. They lose and regrow their outer wing feathers, remaining flightless during this period.

They are very successful and thrive in human and disturbed environments. Like deer, they lack natural predators and are seen in many areas as a nuisance, due to the proliferation of expansive lawn areas, golf courses, parks and man-made bodies of water like ponds and beaches. The negative aspects include droppings, bacteria, noise and a confrontational attitude. They will attack humans if they or their goslings are threatened. Because of these factors, they have become a problem in many communities.

Still, nothing can compare to a flock of geese honking in flight, heralding the change of seasons and reminding us of the passage of time.

Have You Seen Me?

by Dean Kolts, Board Member, Friends of Clark Reservation



This gosling was hiking the Swamp Trail under the watchful eye of its mother in late May.

Spring Wildflowers — Their Beauty and Ecological Importance

by Joseph McMullen, Environmental Consultant/Botanist

We live in an area where deciduous forests are our most common natural community. These forests offer an annual display of beautiful spring wildflowers that you never want to miss.

Most of these colorful spring flashes are ephemeral, coming and going in a relatively short time period. They epitomize the word spring. They shoot up quickly from an underground stored energy source and flower almost immediately, and most die back just as quickly. Why are they in such a hurry? Well, they are taking advantage of a specific growth opportunity window between when the soil warms enough to trigger plant growth and before the overstory of deciduous trees leaf out and shut off their needed light supply.

Our spring wildflowers are beautiful,

but they are also important in nutrient cycling. Consider for a moment that usually rainy seasonal period when spring ephemerals are taking nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorous, out of the soil and using them to create leaves and flowers. These above ground parts safely harbor the nutrients, which are essentially stored and shielded at a time when they are most subject to removal from the system. Then, as the spring plants die they release the nutrients back into the system, just when many other plants are requiring nutrients to put on growth.

Clark Reservation is a great place to see a diverse mix of spring wildflowers. You only get so many springs in your lifetime, so don't miss this year's wildflowers.



Above: Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) gets its name from the blood red sap of the fleshy rhizome



Right: Red trillium (*Trillium erectum*) is beautiful, but if you get your nose close you will know why it is also called stinking Benjamin

Explore Your Senses in Every Season

by Whitney Lash Marshall, Board Member,
Friends of Clark Reservation

No matter what season you hit the trails at Clark Reservation State Park, your senses are in for a treat! The unique terrain provides many opportunities to engage with the environment all around you. Maybe you have been able to locate a songbird high up in the canopy after hearing their song or a woodpecker after listening to it boring into a tree. Has the slightest movement in the leaf litter caught your eye and helped you discover a toad? Or maybe you noticed the differences in bark on the trees lining the trail on your hike - there are some unique examples along the trail such as the shagbark hickory, hop hornbeam, or ash that all feel different to our fingertips.

As spring and summer arrive, take some time to really pay attention to your senses as you explore the park. On a hot day, walk along the lake trail and feel the cool rush of air from underground caves around your feet. Listen for the breeze rustling leaves on the trees and watch for pops of color as wildflowers start to emerge (the Table Rock trail is a great place to look!). When you're walking along the rocks that make up the cliff trail feel how ancient waterways shaped the patterns and textures. There may even be different smells you notice as you move from open areas into forested ones. Happy hiking!

First Day Hike

by Tina Redmond, Chair
Friends of Clark Reservation

The weather was great for our annual First Day Hike, 40 degrees and no rain or snow! Eighty attendees were able to go on two different hikes, an easy family friendly hike and one that was longer and more strenuous.

We had raffles for the first time and they seemed to be quite a hit! There were three different prize drawstring bags containing teddy bears, field guides, various NYS Park hoodies, t-shirts, baseball caps and a free one year membership. The three winners are: Keith Berger, Bryn Carr, and Pete and Tina Greco. Welcome to Friends of Clark Reservation!

A huge THANK YOU to our donors: Green Hills Farms, Gordon Heisler, Amy Doherty, and NYS Parks.

AND: A huge THANK YOU to all of our volunteers!





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



When you sign up with Amazon Smile, they donate .5% of your purchases to the Council of Park Friends. Sign up today!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2305347>

Don't miss these!

Saturday, May 4, 2019: I Love My Park Day

Weekends (from May 25 - Labor Day)

Saturdays, 10 am and Sundays, 1 pm: Naturalist-led Hikes

Saturday, June 1: National Trails Day

Saturday, June 8: Dragonfly Day in New York State

Sunday, June 16: Father's Day Hike with Don Leopold

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



"Sweet April showers do spring May flowers..."

Thomas Tusser (1524 - 1580)

Do you ❤️ Clark Reservation?

Please consider joining or donating today. Your membership of \$20 will help us to expand the Nature Center hours, provide educational programs in the summer, and further our mission. We need YOU!

Thank you! <https://www.friendsofclarkreservation.org/join-us>

