

# Friends of the Outlet, Inc.

Fall 2017

## Special Interest Articles

Wild Parsnip: Removing an Invasive Species

Make the Trail a Family Event

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## FOTO Board of Directors:

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## Wild Parsnip: Removing an Invasive Species

In the summer of 2014, Peg Thompson, former President of the Friends of the Outlet, contacted Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Yates County about a large infestation of Wild Parsnip along the Outlet Trail.

CCE invasive species educator, Emily Staychock, and Master Gardener, Annette Toasperm, met Peg on the Outlet Trail to discuss the plant and management options.

In 2015, FOTO, in partnership with Keuka College faculty member, Bill Brown, and CCE were awarded a \$5000 grant through Finger Lakes PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management).

Approximately 1000 wild parsnip plants along a few miles of the Trail were removed beginning at the Dresden Trailhead. In order to restore native vegetation, Spotted Joe-Pye Weed and Turtlehead plants were cultivated and then transplanted to key locations along the Trail in areas where Wild Parsnip had been removed.

To follow up on the success of 2015, in July 2016, FOTO member volunteers along with Bill, Emily, and Annette, spent a morning removing Wild Parsnip on a one-mile stretch of the Trail, from the Dresden Trailhead to the Hopeton Trailhead where the concentrations of the plant

were the greatest. Only a few hundred plants were present in 2016.

On June 13, 2017, returning volunteers conducted the third annual removal effort. Only about 200 plants were present and removed in less than two hours. The team is hopeful that if the plant is removed annually for the next several years, it may be possible to almost completely eradicate it along the Outlet Trail.

An **invasive species** can be any kind of living organism—an amphibian, plant, insect, fish, fungus, bacteria, or even an organism's seeds or eggs—that is not native to an ecosystem and which causes harm. They can harm the environment, the economy or even, human health.

**Wild Parsnip** can be found growing along roadsides, in fields, and in pastures. It is widespread in New York.

It can grow up to 5' tall and has hollow, grooved stems that are hairless. Leaves resemble large celery leaves. They are yellow-green, coarsely toothed and compound, with 3-5 leaflets. Small, yellow flowers are clustered together in a flat-topped array. Flowering occurs in May or June and lasts for 1-2 months.

Wild Parsnip sap contains chemicals which can make skin more vulnerable to ultraviolet

radiation. Brushing against or breaking the plant releases sap that, combined with sunlight, can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours. This reaction can also cause discoloration of the skin and increased sensitivity to sunlight that may last for years.

**To protect yourself from Wild Parsnip:** learn to identify the plant at different life stages; do not touch any parts of the plant with bare skin; and, wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, pants, boots and eye protection if working near the plant to prevent skin contact with the plant.

**If contact with sap occurs:** wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water, and keep it covered for at least 48 hours to prevent a reaction; if a reaction occurs, keep the affected area out of the sunlight to prevent further burning or discoloration, and see a physician.





## Upcoming Events. . . .

### October 18, 2017 –

Quarterly Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Lyons National Bank

*The meeting is open to anyone interested in the Keuka Outlet Trail and the Friends of the Outlet.*

### October 21, 2017 –

High Tea and Poetry  
2:00 – 3:30 PM  
Pavilion at Seneca Mills Falls

*Join us for this first-of-a-kind event on the Trail.*

### November 6, 2017 –

Sip, Savor, and Support FOTO  
6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Water Street Wine Bar

*Join us for this one-time wine-tasting event of collectible wines and delectable savories.*

## Volunteers Take to the Trail

The Keuka Outlet Trail recently benefitted from an energetic work crew of about 400 **Keuka College** students during their orientation to campus life and the community at large.

On August 25, 2017, the new students – incoming freshmen and transfer students – assisted Friends volunteers in a variety of projects along the Trail.

Trimming, cleaning, planting, painting, and

spending time learning about the natural resource that is available for their exploration year round, the students worked in three-hour shifts, helping to improve the Trail experience for all.

Maintenance Committee Chairman Mickey Orr worked closely with Keuka College officials to coordinate the event. Nine groups of 25 students were dropped off at various sites along the Trail at 10 AM and picked up at 1:30 PM.

A second shift was dropped off around 2:30 PM and picked up around 5:30 PM.

"We are so thankful for the effort the leadership at Keuka College has put into this project," said Friends President Gwen Chamberlain, adding, "I hope each of these students finds a way to return to the Trail throughout their time at Keuka College."

Visit [www.keukaoutlettrail.org](http://www.keukaoutlettrail.org) to see additional photos and videos from the day's efforts.

## Sip, Savor, and Support FOTO!

Join us for this **exciting, one-time wine-tasting event**, Monday, November 6, 2017, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Water Street Wine Bar in Penn Yan.

**Have FUN** as you **help FOTO** continue to improve the Keuka Outlet Trail by purchasing tickets to sample from 14 large format (3 and 5 liter) bottles of collectible wines from the private collection of Water Street Wine and Spirits proprietor, Ray Spencer.

Enjoy savory delectables as you sample from New York State, California, and Imported wines, all the while raising funds to support current initiatives to improve the Keuka Outlet Trail surfaces, signage, safety and security, and recreational and picnic areas.

Photographs of scenes from the Trail, by local photographer and artist, Lisa Brasier, will be on display.

Event tickets are available

for \$50.00 per person. Ticket purchasers earn a chance to win a photo by the artist.

Space is limited, so get your tickets now!

**To purchase your tickets** contact **Steve Stork at 315-694-1816** or visit **Stork Insurance**.

**All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Outlet.**



## High Tea and Poetry

What better way to celebrate autumn than to enjoy a harvest tea party on a crisp fall afternoon?

Gather your family and friends for this first-of-a-kind event. Savor the sights and sounds of an autumn afternoon on the Trail under the pavilion at Seneca Mills Falls as you enjoy an

assortment of teas and mini sandwiches, desserts and macaroons.

Add to the pleasure the poetry of noted Penn Yan author and poet, **Ralph Seager**.

Stephanie Olsen, a native of Penn Yan and former Penn Yan Theater Company

actor, will perform recitations of Ralph Seager's most noted and beloved poems.

**Join us on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 – 3:30 PM** under the **Pavilion at Seneca Mills Falls**.

**To attend, please RSVP by October 9<sup>th</sup>** to Carol Worth at 315-719-4805 OR [community@keukaoutlettrail.org](mailto:community@keukaoutlettrail.org)

## Make the Trail a Family Event

Where does the time go? Getting caught up in the "busy"ness of everyday life is all too common for all us. Sometimes, we forget to take stock of the importance of bonding with family and making life-long memories.

Spending time on the Trail offers a world of possibilities for family outings and memory making. Not only does it afford opportunity to grow closer as a family, but time on the Trail introduces experiences to the next generation for personal growth and learning.

Think of hiking the Trail as more than getting from one Trail destination to another. It is about exploring the Trail and what is on it.

To make the most of your family outing remember first and foremost to have fun and be flexible. Let the children set the pace and allow them to make some choices along the way. They will naturally want to explore their surroundings and examine things. Nurture this curiosity with scavenger hunts or collections for arts and crafts or inventions.



*Mark, Stephanie, and Clara Nisbet, FOTO members, enjoying a Trail hike.*

Pick a short, interesting hike and allow plenty of time. Choose a portion of the Trail with a destination such as one of the waterfalls, historic sites, or picnic sites along the stream.

As you hike, stop often to check out little things. You can use a magnifying glass or binoculars to look at the woods in a new way.

Snack breaks to admire the vistas or to talk about the experience along the way will also keep everyone in good spirits. Be sure to bring along high energy foods and plenty of water.

Take the opportunity to teach children about the Trail – how long it is, Trail etiquette, how to use a compass or read a map, or how to identify plants and animals. Playing games such as I Spy or Twenty Questions only adds to the fun.

Look for signs of wildlife – tracks, feathers, animal droppings (scat), bones, animal homes, acorns or leaves with nibbles on them, insect galls.

Listen for wildlife sounds. Try to imitate them to see if you get a response. A "pah" sound can sometimes draw birds closer to you. Play a game to see what you hear when you all walk quietly for 60 seconds.

Make rubbings of cool textures. Using the side of a crayon works well or make round crayons by melting down crayon bits in a muffin tin.

And last, but not certainly least, always be mindful of safety by sticking together and sticking to the Trail. Use the hiking experience to review with children how to stay safe by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy shoes, carrying water and snacks, using a safety whistle and staying put if separated, applying sunscreen and bug repellent.

The Keuka Outlet Trail awaits! So gather your family and get hiking...and...many happy Trail hikes to you!



*Grady, Olivia, and Julian Cole, with Harper, on the Trail at Great Grandmother Juanita Spence's memorial.*





## A Family's Gift to the Trail



Some Friends of the Outlet recently toured a new addition to the Outlet Trail. The land, which is on the south side of Hopeton Road, covers six acres that connect directly to the Trail. The tour in July brought the participants back a bit to their own childhoods, roaming areas of the outdoors that were unspoiled. This natural state brought with it some hard hiking; crossing a stream that flows through the land several times, climbing over fallen trees and moving carefully past wild rosebushes. There is just a six foot difference in elevation between the land and the Outlet Trail.

the country. Susan also spoke about what led the family to decide to donate part of the property to the Friends of the Outlet.

More than two years ago, the siblings, who all live out of the area, made the decision to sell the main property on Hopeton Road. The six acres south of the road were deemed unbuildable and were not included in the offering of the main property for sale. The family was working with Finger Lakes Realty associate broker Ron Miller who suggested they might be interested in donating the six-acre parcel to the Friends of the Outlet. After some discussion, the family offered to donate the land through the Clark Family Trust.



A number of years ago, Fayette and Clara Herrick's grandchildren Susan Amlicke and her brothers Orlo and Paul William, known as Bill, happily roamed their grandparents' farm across the road as well as the property now owned by the Friends. Susan said they spent much of their time exploring, playing and just being kids. Now grown, Susan recalled the days when she and her family enjoyed the times at her grandparents' farm, commenting, "It was just a great place to be." The children enjoyed the freedom of being in

As in many areas of the Trail, the land is populated by a variety of birds, deer, and other critters. A path from the road to the Outlet Trail may someday be developed. For now, the land that Fayette and Clara Herrick's grandchildren loved as children will continue to be home to a variety of wildlife.

## FOTO salutes Dr. Charles McClure



The Friends of the Outlet

were privileged to have Dr. Charles McClure serve as a Board of Director for one year and a half and benefitted immensely from his contributions.

Due to additional responsibilities with his position at Florida State

University, Dr. McClure resigned from the Board in June.

During his tenure, Dr. McClure took the lead in updating the By-laws, helped develop a Strategic Plan, and contributed to the revitalization of the

Web presence for the organization. He was also active in promoting the Trail to new members.

Dr. McClure is especially interested in continued efforts to increase the visibility of this important Yates County treasure.

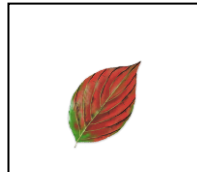
## The Splendor of Autumn

Hiking the Trail in autumn is to revel in the beauty of the fall colors – an explosion of red, yellow, purple, and orange. This mixture of color is the result of chemical processes that take place in the tree as the season changes from summer to winter.

In the fall, because of changes in the length of daylight and changes in temperature, the leaves stop their food-making process. The chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears, and the yellow to orange colors become visible and give the leaves part of their fall splendor.

As you stroll the Trail this autumn, familiarize yourself with the variety of broad-leaved trees which give the Trail's foliage a spectacular color range.

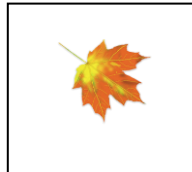
See if you can spot these:



Flowering Dogwood



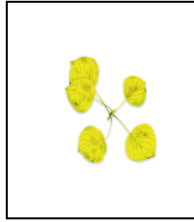
American Hornbeam



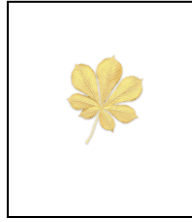
Sugar Maple



Northern Red Oak



Quaking Aspen



Common Horsechestnut



## Community Service in Action . . .

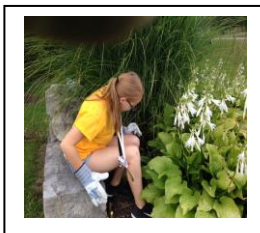
### Keuka College students...



Paint



Gear up to cut brush



Weed and plant



Rototill

### Friends...



Install directional signs



Serve BBQ to support FOTO

*"Winter is an etching,  
Spring a watercolor,  
Summer an oil painting,  
and Autumn a mosaic of them all."*

*- Stanley Horowitz*

*"Aaah, summer –  
that long  
anticipated stretch  
of lazy, lingering  
days, free of  
responsibility and  
rife with possibility.  
It's a time to hunt  
for insects, master  
handstands,  
practice swimming  
strokes, conquer  
trees, explore  
nooks and  
crannies, and  
make new friends."*

- Darell Hammond

## Summer Happenings on the Trail!



Jean and Rick Thompson, FOTO members, talking with FOTO volunteers Peyton Silliman and Brigham Hansen at the Keuka Arts Festival in June.

Mike Maxwell and Eileen Kaplan, FOTO members, enjoying a day of biking.



An Invasive Species Trail Walk hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension and Keuka College and attended by FOTO members.

Professional photographer and FOTO member, Steve Knapp, instructs participants in the Art of Nature Photography at the FOTO Photo Event in July.



FOTO member, Suzanne Barbee, volunteering to keep the Trail clean!

The Lager and Fox families exploring!



## Become a FOTO Volunteer!

We are always looking for people to volunteer to help maintain and improve the Keuka Outlet Trail.

Please browse the different options, then visit [www.keukaoutlettrail.org](http://www.keukaoutlettrail.org) and click the Volunteer tab to complete the Volunteer Form.

- **Trail Maintenance:** Come out on assigned work days and help on special projects that may include anything from hanging signs, to clearing a fallen tree, to helping install a bench.
- **Hospitality Tables:** Hand out brochures, sign up new members, and answer questions about the Trail.
- **Photography:** Take your camera along the Trail and send us your most memorable photos. We need seasonal photographs and people enjoying the Trail.
- **Brochure Distribution:** Develop and update a list of businesses in your area that should have Trail brochures; check with businesses to see when they need more; deliver more brochures when businesses run out.
- **Community Activities:** Let us know what is happening in your community. If you know of any up-coming events that might interest our Trail users, please e-mail or call us. Alert us to chances in your community to publicize the Trail, educate people, and recruit more members and volunteers.
- **Educational Speakers:** Share your enthusiasm and knowledge about the Trail. Give a presentation at a civic, fraternal, or school group meeting or do a guided tour on the Trail. We have a booklet chock-full of information and a powerpoint presentation with photos on the Trail.
- **Mailings:** Assemble mailings to members, volunteers, legislators and others. Collate, stuff, and affix postage and labels on envelopes.
- **Merchandise Marketing and Fundraising:** Lend the Trail your marketing skills. Help promote and sell our booklets and posters OR organize, promote, and execute fundraising events.
- **Newsletter:** Let your writing or editing talents shine for the Trail. Help write an article or send us your anecdotes to add to our quarterly newsletter or website.
- **Research:** Help us gather information about the Trail experience from our visitors by collecting Visitor Feedback Forms and compiling the feedback data.
- **Records:** Categorize and file Trail records and documents to maintain our sense of history.

**We hope to hear from you soon!**

## FOTO Receives Grant Funding for Signs

A combination of several gifts totaling nearly \$12,000 will help pay for a series of new interpretive signs to be located in up to five sites along the Keuka Outlet Trail.

The Friends of the Outlet were among seven organizations that received grants from the Yates Community Endowment during a reception in late June.

FOTO received a check for \$4,500 that will help cover the cost of the large vandal-proof signs. The grant includes \$700 from the Robert Flickinger Fund and \$1,300 from the Willie Taaffe Memorial Fund.

Work has already begun on the series of signs that will include guidelines for enjoying the Trail, a map showing a variety of sites along the Trail and former Crooked Lake Canal and

other information about the area's history and natural features.

FOTO also received a \$2,400 grant from the William G. McGowan Fund and a pledge of \$5,000 from the Dan Spence Memorial Fund to be used for the signage,

An unveiling event will be announced when the signs are ready for installation.

*“So it’s up to the living, like you who walk with me, to become the caretakers of the Outlet Trail.”*

- Ralph Seager

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**Email:**

[gchamberlain@stny.rr.com](mailto:gchamberlain@stny.rr.com)

**Trail Coordinates:**

42.661N, -77.044W  
42.680N, -76.958W

**FRIENDS OF THE OUTLET, INC.**  
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**We're on the Web!**

**See us at:**

[www.keukaoutlettrail.org](http://www.keukaoutlettrail.org)

## Lucky Stones: A Pocketful of Charm

The Outlet Creek and rocky shoreline of Seneca Lake, that it flows into, is a playground for collecting beach glass, driftwood, shells, and stones. The glaciers, which shaped the Trail, creek, and lakes, left endless deposits of shale and stone.

As you comb the shorelines, you might be lucky enough to find a very special stone. Lucky stones, sometimes referred to as hagstones, holey stones, or Odin stones, in geological terminology are concretions. These stones range in size and always have a hole through them.

During the formation of the stone a small organic item – a stick or tiny creature – was

embedded and over much time as the item disintegrated, the hole was left. The stones are tumbled and smoothed through time by the water and wind.

Legend has it that these stones bring good luck to anyone who finds one. Treasured by early peoples, there is a belief that if one looks through the hole, one will see beings not visible to the physical eye. In folk traditions, the stone has a variety of purposes and uses – warding off evil spirits, protecting people, property, sailors, and ships, preventing bad dreams, and banishing illness.

It is believed that tying multiple stones together is a great magical boost –

they're fairly hard to find, so if you are lucky enough to have more than one, take advantage of the opportunity.

Good Luck!



*Lucky stones found along the shoreline of Seneca Lake this summer.*