

# Friends of the Outlet, Inc.



### Newsletter Update:

Beginning in January of 2020 the Newsletter will be sent by e-mail.

Please submit your e-mail address to: [www.KeukaOutletTrail.org](http://www.KeukaOutletTrail.org)

If you would still like a hard copy. Please e-mail the address above or mail us at: Friends of the Outlet, Inc. PO Box 65 Dresden, NY 14441

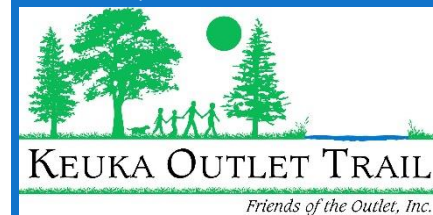
### Check us out at:

Facebook.com/KeukaOutletTrail

Website: [KeukaOutletTrail.org](http://KeukaOutletTrail.org)

### Trail Coordinates:

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



### Spring Cleaning

The trail is looking great, thanks to help from some excellent volunteers. In addition to our fantastic regular volunteers, the trail was cleaned up by approximately 85 volunteers from St. Michael's School, Celebrate Service, Celebrate Yates!, and Keuka College this April. In one week, these volunteers cleaned the trail from Cherry Street in Penn Yan all the way to the Dresden trailhead, along with portions of the trail inside Penn Yan.

They picked up litter and helped move sticks and other obstacles for mowing from the trail. The beauty of the Keuka Outlet Trail is owed to our volunteers, to our members and sponsors whose dues help support activities, and to responsible trail users.



**Friends of the Outlet, Inc.**  
**PO Box 65**  
**Dresden, NY 14441**



### Highlights:

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- Page 3 – Safety/National's Trail Day/Contest
- Page 4 – Spring Cleaning

### FOTO Board of Directors:

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- Phillip Rahr – Vice President
- Rachel Knaption – Secretary
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### Daisy Journey Begins on the Keuka Outlet Trail

Completing their first year of activities, Daisy Troop #61087 created a flower bed at the Seneca Millsite along the Keuka Outlet in May.

Assisted by Master Gardener and past Friends of the Outlet President Peg Thompson, troop co-leaders Jen Gruschow and Julie Gibson helped the girls plan, design, and plant the flower bed to earn their Daisy Journey Badge.

Jen Gruschow explains, "At each level of Girl Scouts, a Troop can choose to complete a Girl Scout Journey. We decided to complete the Daisy Journey Badge entitled 'It's Your World, Change It: Daisy Flower Garden.' The girls learned about all the flowers in the Daisy Flower Garden, each representing a different part of the Girl Scout law. For example Vi the Violet teaches the girls to 'be a sister to every Girl Scout' and Mari the Marigold teaches the girls to 'be responsible for what I say and do.' "

The girls attended a workshop at the Seneca Park Zoo to learn about plants and animals from around the world and here at home in our own gardens. To close out the Journey, the girls had to do a "take action project," which means they have to complete something that has a lasting impact on their community, not just a service project that is a one day event.

"When planting our flower garden we attempted to incorporate as many flowers as we could from the 'Daisy Flower Garden' including lupines, zinnias, marigolds, morning glories, geraniums, roses and violets," says Gruschow.

The girls will continue to care for the garden by weeding and watering through the summer, and hope to add other flower gardens to the community in the upcoming years.





**Quotes:**

• "I really enjoy the trail as it is. Maybe if you put trash cans along the trail there would be less garbage and it would look cleaner. Other than that the trail is very nice and I like how wild it is."

"I feel that it is important for kids to get in touch with the natural history in their community because they should know about their community. It is important for kids to see how the world has changed and appreciate living now. Getting in touch with the natural history in your community helps you to learn community and to think about it more."

"I think the trail should remain as it is because if you keep adding so much it's no longer going to be natural. Sure you could add a thing or two but if you keep going there's not going to be anything fun about it."

**Trout Release/Marcus Whitman students**

Again this year in April, the DEC, Trout Unlimited, and Marcus Whitman Central School students helped release hundreds of yearling and 2-year-old trout into the Keuka Outlet at several locations between Cascade Falls and the Seneca Mills waterfall. The project is a great opportunity for students in the Marcus Whitman ECO program to use some of their knowledge in the field, and to learn more about the natural and human history of the Keuka Outlet ravine.

After the release, the students write a report about their experience. We asked their teachers to share some of their thoughts for our newsletter. To the left, in their words, are comments from the students about the value of the project.



**Streambank Stabilization**

All Around Excavation has begun extensive work on repairs to the streambank of the Keuka Outlet just east of the Cherry Street entrance to the trail in mid-June. When the work is complete, the trail in that area will be protected from further erosion damage and will be safer for all trail users. This project is being completed with funds the village of Penn Yan secured through the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a result of the 2014 floods.

**Cascade Pavilion**

As this newsletter is being composed, final demolition work on an old building at Cascade is underway, and the materials for the new pavilion that will be built there is on order. We expect delivery to be mid-July and we plan construction for mid to late summer. Visitors should be able to use the pavilion for informal picnics and gatherings through the autumn. It will be available on a first come, first served basis. The pavilion construction is made possible in part with a \$15,000 grant from the Yates County Legislature's Natural and Recreational Resources program.

**Speaking of safety**

Boy Scout Gavin Ingle has begun working with Trail Maintenance volunteer Norm Koek on plans for safety railings to be installed at various locations along the trail to improve safety. For his Eagle Scout project, Gavin will be planning, fund-raising, organizing volunteers, and coordinating with Norm to complete the project. In addition, Norm is working with a local contractor to install more secure railings on the look-out area at the Seneca Millsite.

The Friends of the Outlet have made safety a priority when planning improvements. If you have ideas to improve safety on the Keuka Outlet Trail, please send us a message at [keukaoutletfriends@gmail.com](mailto:keukaoutletfriends@gmail.com).

**Coloring and Writing Contest:**

Check them out in the kiosks on the trail or on our website at: [www.keukaoutlettrail.org/contestentries](http://www.keukaoutlettrail.org/contestentries) to see the winners!



**American Hiking Society's National Trails Day**

This year for American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, Friends of the Outlet, Inc. teamed up with the Milly's Pantry Backpack Program.

Approximately 500 students from Penn Yan and Dundee schools, Keuka Lake School, Rainbow Junction Daycare, The Head Start Program, and a homeschool family are served by the program each weekend during the school year, as well as some before and after school snacks, summer schools, and summer camp sites. Friends of the Outlet, Inc. helped secure a donation of 1000 granola bars from Nature Valley to help support the program, as well as supplying our Historical Trail Guide to encourage families to get out and enjoy the trail this summer.



**Events:**

Foraging with Friends featuring The Botanical Hiker  
7/28 at 9am  
Cascade Mills Falls

Chicken BBQ Fundraiser  
8/3 from 10am - sold out  
Oak Hill Bulk Foods

Making Friends Membership Drive  
7/28 and 8/25 from 11am - 1pm  
Climbing Bines Hop Farm and Craft Ale Company

Watch the Birdie! Birding Outing  
Featuring Eaton Birding Society  
9/14 at 8am  
Hopeton Trailhead

\*\*Event updates and new events can be found by checking:

[KeukaOutletTrail.org/events](http://KeukaOutletTrail.org/events)

[Facebook.com/KeukaOutletTrail](https://Facebook.com/KeukaOutletTrail)

OR

E-mail: [community@KeukaOutletTrail.org](mailto:community@KeukaOutletTrail.org)