

Friends of the Outlet, Inc.

Spring, 2017

Special Interest Articles:

Come and Sit a Spell

Isn't it Tweet! Birding on the Outlet Trail

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FOTO Board of Directors:

- Peg Thompson, President
- Gwen Chamberlain, Vice President
- Dave Reeve, Treasurer
- Nancy Tharp, Secretary
- Dan Condella
- Leon Fontier
- Kristi Hoag
- Norm Koek
- Dr. Chuck McClure
- Thomas McGuigan
- Ivan Oberholtzer
- Mickey Orr
- Carol Worth



Come and Sit a Spell!

We've all heard of a win-win situation, but a project underway at Penn Yan Academy right now is a win-win-win-win situation for the community.

By this summer, the Keuka Outlet Trail will have 19 new customized benches for people to sit and enjoy a break during their hike along the seven-mile trail.

Because of the combined effort of Penn Yan Rotary, Rotary District 7120, Penn Yan Academy Class of 2016, agricultural and technical students of Penn Yan Academy, Penn Yan School maintenance staff, the Village of Penn Yan, Hoover Ironworks, and the Friends of the Outlet, the 19 benches have been built and are going to be installed this April.

The project began last year when Penn Yan Rotary Club members Carol Worth and Don Oakleaf sought funds from Rotary District 7120 to purchase five benches for the Trail. Then, Oakleaf started discussions with PYA agriculture and technical education teacher John Kriese about the students building the benches. The order grew

when the PYA Class of 2016 donated \$3,000 toward the project.

Along the way, Peg Thompson, President of the Friends of the Outlet, secured a grant to pay for another three benches. In no time, the plan which began with a goal of five benches expanded to 19. When the final construction was underway at PYA, the shops behind Kriese's classrooms were overflowing with 6-ft. benches and students learning metal fabrication.

The project has provided PYA students an opportunity to practice welding techniques, use an industrial saw purchased by FFA, and the plasma laser cutter used to customize the back rest of each bench. Some of the welding techniques

needed were a bit advanced for the high schoolers, so Kriese called in Floyd Hoover, who demonstrated some advanced techniques. Hoover also completed some of the custom bending for the bench arm rests.

Using the plasma cutter, the vocational and agricultural mechanics students cut out the messages crediting the different organizations that participated in the project.

The benches will be installed along the village portion of the Trail by village crews, and along the Friends of the Outlet portion of the Trail by a volunteer crew led by Friends Board member Mickey Orr.





Upcoming Events. . . .

April 23, 2017 –
Celebrate Service,
Celebrate Yates
1:30 -4:30 PM

April 26, 2017 –
FOTO Annual Meeting
7:00 PM
Lyons National Bank

May 20, 2017 –
Let's Go Birding!
8:00 -10:00 AM
Dresden Trail Head Parking
Lot

May 20, 2017 –
Historic Walk and Talk
10:00 AM - Noon
Keuka Outlet Trail



Celebrate Service, Celebrate Yates

On April 23, Keuka College students and community volunteers will gather for the 20th year at a number of sites throughout Yates County to lend a helping hand to local non-profit organizations. The project is a collaboration between the college and the Yates County Chamber of Commerce.

Friends of the Outlet have participated in the program for many years and plan to take part again this year. There are a wide variety of tasks available along the Trail

including pruning the fast growing shrubs, painting, planting perennials, removing trash, or identifying sections of the trail that need improvements.

Every bit of work on the Trail helps make it better - whether you have an hour to spare or the entire scheduled time.

Please join volunteers at the Seneca Mill site parking lot, at Cascade, or just select a spot and start working. Old clothes, gloves, and pruning tools

are recommended.

Work sites will host volunteers from 1:30 until 4:30 p.m. Volunteers may sign up as individuals or as part of a larger group. Activities will be held at Keuka College, beginning at 11 a.m. prior to the start of the event.

For more information, contact Mike or Kathy at cscv@keuka.edu or the Friends of the Outlet at www.keukaoutlettrail.org.

Life is short. Go Birding!



The Friends of the Outlet in collaboration with the Eaton Birding Society invite you to join us for a morning birding outing along the Outlet Trail, Saturday, May 20, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

The excursion will be led by Lynn Donaldson, a member of the Eaton Birding Society, and begin at the Dresden Trail Head Parking Lot.

At this time of year participants can expect to encounter a number of nesting Yellow Warblers, and less easily seen common Yellow throats,

another Warbler species. Warblers of several species are residents, and can be identified by their songs. It is expected that we will hear 5 to 6 species calling.

Great Blue Herons and much smaller Green Herons will be along the watercourse. Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Baltimore Orioles will also likely be spotted.

Consider bringing along bug spray, sun protection, water, and a snack.

Binoculars will be needed.

In case of a downpour, the excursion will be cancelled and rescheduled.

Join us for this unique birding experience during spring migration and the breeding season, led by a local guide with local knowledge.

While birding, participants will enjoy the tranquility and great natural beauty of the trail.

To participate, please contact Kristi Hoag at pierce1152@aol.com.

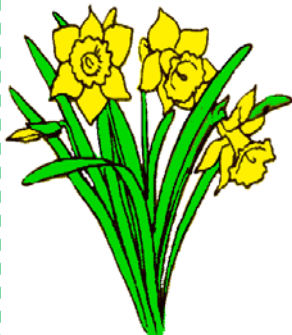
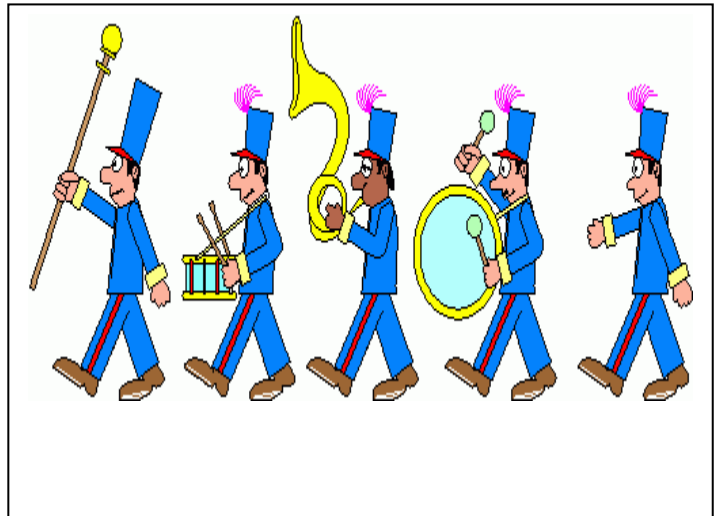
Thank You! Thank You! A “Shout-Out” to Members

The Friends of the Outlet are pleased that so many community members, individuals, and businesses have decided to become a part of or renew their commitment to the Trail community.

You are joining or rejoining a circle of diverse, dedicated, and enthusiastic nature lovers and we welcome you to engage with the Friends through volunteering, attending events, or relaxing along the Trail.

Your membership supports current and future projects that contribute to a path to a better future for the Trail.

Thank you for choosing to become a member and we hope this is only the beginning of a lifetime relationship with the Friends of the Outlet (FOTO).



Daffodil Days Return!

For decades, the American Cancer Society (ACS) sponsored an event called Daffodil Days. This fundraising event brought dozens of gorgeous spring daffodils to the community and returned needed funding to the ACS. In 2012, the ACS announced the elimination of the program.

Staffers at Yates County Chamber of Commerce, in 2013, worked to resurrect the event and designate a “local” cause to benefit from the flower sales. This tradition continues!

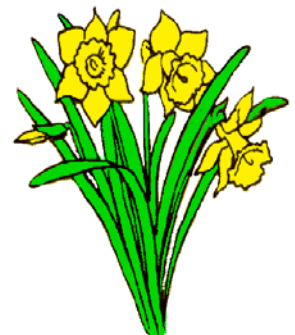
It was announced recently that the Chamber will take orders for 4” potted plants with a cost of \$10.

The order deadline is March 31, 2017, and flowers will be delivered on April 6 and 7.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale will be donated to Friends of the Outlet Trail.

The Friends of the Outlet are thrilled to participate in this continuing spring event and grateful to the Chamber’s recognition of all the recent activities and improvements on the Trail.

To order your plants, contact the Yates County Chamber of Commerce at 800-868-YATES or info@yatesny.com.





Porcupines usually flee perceived threats; when attacked, however, they raise their quills and lash their tail.



Although you may be tempted to remove the quills from a dog yourself, leave that to a veterinarian: it's an operation that will likely require anesthesia.

Porcupines on the Trail

Porcupines have been spotted on the Outlet Trail.

The North American porcupine is aptly named. His scientific name, *Erethizon dorsatum*, loosely translates to "animal with the irritating back." He is the continent's second-largest rodent, weighing as much as 40 pounds. While a porcupine's first notion when attacked is to climb a tree, he's fully capable of defending himself when necessary.

An angry and defensive porcupine raises his quills (which are actually modified hairs) and lashes his tail. When the tail makes contact, usually in the face of an unsuspecting dog, the loosely fastened quills become painfully embedded in the dog's skin — most often in the tender mouth and nose. Once lodged in the skin, the barbed quills are difficult and painful to remove. (A porcupine has approximately 30,000 quills on his body, and, no, he

can't launch the spines through the air).

If you have visions of pulling the quills out at home with a pair of pliers, think again. Removing the quills is a lengthy, laborious, and risky process that is best done with the dog under general anesthesia. It can take an hour or two for a veterinarian to remove them, all the while hoping the quills don't break off.

It is quill season again and a romping, rollicking dog bounding too close to a porcupine's turf will cause the porcupine to become defensive. Dog owners should keep an eye out for porcupines and head off their dogs if they get too curious.

Dogs most often get quilled by porcupines at dawn and dusk on those early morning or late evening walks with their owners — amid the forest, meadow, and porcupines.

Yikes!

Our Website: We've Got a New Look

Check us out! Our website, <http://keukaoutlettrail.org>, is an updated, mobile friendly resource for all things Keuka Outlet Trail.

The website has been designed for easier

navigation and greater visual appeal on desktops and mobile devices. Getting to the information you want will be more intuitive and expedient. The site also links to Facebook through

www.facebook.com/keukaoutlettrail/.

Please visit us often for the most up-to-date Trail information. We want you to find your Keuka Outlet Trail experience on the web

or on the Trail engaging and memorable.

Let us know what you think. We welcome your feedback and if you find any kinks in the new website be sure to let us know so we can fix them!

Isn't It Tweet! Birding on the Outlet Trail

Welcome to the wonderful world of birding!

The pleasures of watching birds really come to light during the changes of the seasons. The appearance of the first migrants is a cause for celebration. Spring birding is full of activity – birds arriving one species after another, mating, and nesting – filling the out-of-doors with sound.

On the Trail, begin by becoming familiar with the general shape, color, and behavior of birds, and by keeping a running tally in your head of what kinds of birds are likely to be seen.

Birders can identify many species from just a quick look using the four keys to visual identification: size and shape, color pattern, behavior, and habitat.

Birding is surprisingly easy to

learn and enjoy along the Trail, but involves patience, careful observation, and a willingness to let the wonder and beauty of the natural world overtake you.

So, get going! Grab your binoculars and field guide and hit the Trail!



*"May the wind
under your wings
bear you where
the sun sails and
the moon walks."*

- J. R. R. Tolkien

On the Trail? Watch the Birdie!

Yellow Warbler



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Indigo Bunting



Scarlet Tanager



Baltimore Oriole



Blue Heron





"Service is the very purpose of life. It is the rent we pay for living on the planet."

- Marian Wright Edelman

Wanted: Board Members for FOTO

The Friends of the Outlet, Inc. annual meeting will be held at 7 p.m., April 26, at Lyon's National Bank, 205 Liberty Street, Penn Yan.

According to the Bylaws of FOTO, business at the annual meeting includes the election of directors and officers.

After completing two full terms, the terms of Directors Mickey Orr and Ivan Oberholtzer will be ending.

The terms of Norm Koek and Leon Fontier are also ending. Norm Koek is not seeking re-election, but Leon Fontier is.

The nominating committee is actively seeking candidates for election to the three seats that will be open. Steve Stork of Penn Yan has agreed to be a nominee, and discussions with other potential directors are in progress.

The Board will take nominations from the floor at the annual meeting.

Directors typically meet once per month, and if possible, the December meeting is cancelled.

If you think you could be an effective member of the Friends' leadership team, please contact Gwen Chamberlain at 607-745-4790 or GChamberlain@stny.rr.com for more information.

A Friend Indeed

John Warner and his Golden Retriever Marley walk the Outlet Trail every day and are among a growing number of hikers who are good stewards for the Trail.

The Friends of the Outlet are thankful for the frequent Trail users that keep us informed about

trail conditions.

From all users we welcome reports that alert us to vandalism, dumping, illegal use, overgrown areas, blowdowns, structural damage, erosion, flooding, or kiosk/sign damage.

So, hats off to you and other hikers who take the

time to report trail conditions and help us preserve and protect our natural asset.

Please use our web site to report a trail condition.

www.keukaoutlettrail.org



FOTO Board members Leon Fontier, Gwen Chamberlain, Mickey Orr, property owner Bruce Hendersen, and Board member Carol Worth walked the Outlet Trail boundaries along the Hendersen farm and pipeline installed area.

As Tax Map boundary discrepancies arise, there is usually an amicable trade or solution. One by one.

FOTO Storage Solution

As you can imagine, the Friends of the Outlet have accumulated numerous artifacts and historical documents that collectively tell the history of the Trail. Where to safely store this material became a concern.

Many thanks to Carl Schwartz for donating space, and Connect- A-Service for moving the materials.



President Peg Thompson, pictured right, on moving day.

At Your Service

Norm Koek has been actively involved with the Outlet Trail for eighteen years. His current three-year term is coming to an end, but not his devotion and contribution to the Trail.

Norm is keen on nature and finds gratification from keeping the Trail in good

shape for others to enjoy.

Whether enjoying a picnic at Seneca Mills Falls or walking your pet along the Trail, give Norm a nod. Norm, alongside others, worked to develop the Seneca Mills Falls Lions Club site and also keeps the Trail mowed, passable, and safe.

Looking toward the future, Norm envisions opportunities for Trail visitors and community members to learn about Trail history and past events.

Kudos to Norm for his continuing commitment to maintaining the natural beauty of the Trail.

Historic Walk and Talk

A Saturday, May 20th Trail hike from 10 a.m. to Noon welcomes tourists and locals alike. As part of the Flights of Fancy Finger Lakes Wine Classic, Keuka Outlet Trail historians will be at various sites answering questions and providing historic tidbits about our early settlers, mill site locations, canal days, and railroad days.

Be a part of the Trail's past and join us for this informative event!



"Hiking is a bit like

life:

The journey only

requires you to put

one foot in front of

another...again and

again and again.

And if you allow

yourself opportunity

to be present

throughout the

entirety of the trek,

you will witness

beauty every step of

the way..."

- Anonymous

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.keukaoutlettrail.org

Did You Know? Three Trail Fun Facts

1

Keuka Lake is the only Finger Lake that drains directly into another Finger Lake.

2

At the height of development in 1830, the 8-mile Keuka Lake Outlet supported as many as 40 mills and 12 hydropower dams.

3

The Outlet Trail drops 274 feet between Keuka and Seneca Lake.