

Friends of the Outlet, Inc.



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FOTO Board of Directors:

Gwen Chamberlain – President

Phillip Rahr – Vice President

Rachel Knapton – Secretary

Susan Spence - Treasurer

Deb Clancy

Dan Condella

Thomas McGuigan

Steve Miller

Robert Schwarting

Steven Stork

Nancy Tharp

Kristin Burch

Dan Mackey

Celebrating



Years with Friends

We often talk of the long and storied history that has taken place within the Keuka Outlet Ravine, from the geological features of the Devonian Period through the late 20th century when we saw its life as an industrial corridor come to an end. In April of 1984, Friends of the Outlet was formed, and for the past 35 years has been writing a new chapter in its history. Recently, community members shared some memories from the past 35 years on our Facebook page (@KeukaOutletTrail). Their stories included treasured memories shared with family and pets that are no longer with us, and some that are, as well as interactions with friendly snakes and our beloved turtles.

Not shared on Facebook was a supporter's first memory of the trail as a dump, a place where people would toss used appliances and the like. They noted that we have come a long way. While we still deal with some litter and occasional cases of vandalism or dumping, it's plain to see that our community has decided that the trail is no longer a dumping ground. It is a point of well deserved pride for our community, and a place so beautiful that it draws in visitors from all over the world.

The current state of the Keuka Outlet Trail is a testament to 35 years of community support in the form of members, volunteers, donations, grants, an all volunteer board of directors, supportive organizations, and countless people who care.



Below is a list of species identified by members of the Eaton Birding Society:

Wood Duck
Mourning Dove
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Great Blue Heron
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Sparrow sp.
Tennessee Warbler
American Redstart
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Pine Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler

Membership

This newsletter is intended to keep members and supporters of the Friends of the Outlet up-to-date about the activities and projects of the Friends of the Outlet. Within the next couple of months, we'll be reaching out to remind you how important your support is, and ask you to support the trail again with a membership donation. As a member of the Friends of the Outlet, you are among more than 350 individuals and families who support our efforts. We also have several generous corporate and business partnerships. We would love to see these numbers increase, so if you know someone who loves the trail, please ask them to become a member and help us ensure this property will be available for future generations to enjoy. Watch the mail for your individual and family membership information early in 2020. We'll be sending our corporate and business sponsorship opportunities later this year.

Birding Outing

Members of the Eaton Birding Society and Friends of the Outlet came together on September 14 for a walk led by Lynn Donaldson to observe the fall migration between Hopeton Road and the Pre-emption Line marker. The birds were very active and the weather was beautiful. It was an exciting highlight to see a Wood Duck lingering in a pond formed in the canal bed. We also spent some time listening to the changing song of a Carolina Wren. In addition to 27 species of birds, we were excited to see monarch butterflies, and two garter snakes entwined in a tall bush.



Cherry Street

Our partners in the Village of Penn Yan have been busy with a couple of projects to improve their portion of the trail.

In late August, All Around Excavating completed the major bank stabilization project just east of the Cherry Street entrance. Some early summer storms delayed the progress on this project, but the result is a solid, stable area protecting the trail from the potential for erosion from the outlet's water flow.

This was the last project to repair damage from the 2014 floods that was mostly paid for by Federal Emergency Management Agency funding. The village recently approved an addition of \$37,119 to the contract, bringing the project's total cost to \$349,760.

Repairs to the bank of the outlet have always been and will always be expensive, but they are important to the preservation of the Keuka Outlet Trail. The Friends of the Outlet Board of Directors are always looking for resources for other projects that will reduce the impact of erosion which threatens the trail.

We know of two areas — one near the Turtle Pond, and one between Cascade and Hopeton, where stream bank erosion is threatening the trail. We encourage everyone to be careful around the sensitive soils along the stream banks.

Before



After



Cascade Millsite

Visitors to the trail have likely noticed the new fencing that has been installed around the former JT Baker buildings at the Cascade Millsite. This fencing was installed in August by a contractor hired by Arcadis, the engineering firm that monitors the site after the previous environmental clean-up projects. The Friends of the Outlet work closely with Arcadis to make the trail safe for all visitors.

Another project at the Cascade area this fall will improve the amenities for visitors. With financial support from the Yates County Legislature's Natural Resources & Recreation Grant, the Friends will build a pavilion that can be used for picnics and gatherings at that site. The materials are on hand, and we're planning construction for sometime this fall. The Friends are grateful to Norm Koek, one of our maintenance volunteers, for his leadership in this project.



Celebrating Another Anniversary

On November 29, 1989, Friends of the Outlet got its Inc., as that was the date of our corporate filing. We will be celebrating 30 years as Friends of the Outlet, Inc. on Black Friday this year, and would like to invite you to skip the lines and #OptOutside.

Come down to the Bruce Hansen Pavilion at Seneca Mills Falls between 10am and 1pm on November 29 and say hello, share your memories, learn about FOTO, and get a free FOTO logo frisbee and Historical Trail Guide while supplies last.

Don't forget to tell your friends to #OptOutside too!



Adding to the significance of the Community Table was the generosity of these supporters and others who made the night possible:

Bedient Farms,
Big Mamou
Organic Farm,
Birkett Mills,
Bostrom Farms,
Climbing Bines,
Esperanza
Mansion, Fox
Run Café &
Brud Holland,
Fox Run
Vineyards,
Fulkerson
Winery, Heidi
Fecik, Knapp &
Schlappi
Lumber Co.,
Lakeview
Organic Grain,
McGregor
Vineyard, Penn
Yan Plumbing,
Simmons
Vineyard,
Smokin Petes,
Staving Artist,
Wager's Cider
Mill, Katy
Wheeler, Village
of Penn Yan,
and Brian Long

Community Table:

The inaugural Community Table, a sustainable farm to table dinner, was held on the Main Street bridge in Penn Yan overlooking the Keuka Outlet. As eighty supporters shared one 80ft long table constructed of plywood and 2x4s, topped with butcher paper held down with rocks painted at a ReFind Studio event, it was clear that community and incredible food were the primary focus.

The Community Table Committee did an incredible job orchestrating the affair which was carefully designed to be sustainable, right down to the conspicuous absence of plates and silverware. Never fear, for this Finger Lakes fare was fated to be finger food. It was especially heartwarming to look down the table as strings of lights suspended overhead illuminated the celebration of community and the bounty which had been skillfully prepared by Ben Comstock and the team that he assembled and see the laughter and excitement among friends new and old. The rousing success of this event resulted in a substantial donation to support Friends of the Outlet, Inc..

Thanks to the Community Table Committee Members: Ben Comstock - True Roots Catering, Claudia Milroy - Refind Studio + Shop, Dan Mitchell - Staving Artist, Mike Lipari- Finger Lakes Economic Development Center, Teresa Hoban - Hoban's Spirits, Village of Penn Yan Trustee Jessica Bacher, Jody Tyler, and Katrina Wright - Yates County Chamber of Commerce

If you missed this year's Community Table, be sure to keep your eye out for the event to come back even bigger and better next year!



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Attention Hunting/Trapping

Hunting: Oct 1 - Dec 17

Hunters should use caution to ensure the safety of all trail users and pets.

Trapping: Oct 25 - Feb 15

No Trapping is Permitted on Friends of the Outlet property.

Tips for trail users:

- Wear brightly colored clothing, such as blaze orange.
- Stick to the trail.
- Let your presence be known, but be courteous to other trail users and hunters.
- Keep pets under control and ensure their safety as well.
- In some areas, the trail is bordered on one or both sides by neighboring land owners, please be respectful of their property.

Scout Troop 82

Gavin Ingle, (front left) and other members of Scout Troop 82 worked on his Eagle Scout project with Outlet Trail volunteer Norm Koek and other volunteers from Penn Yan Lions Oct. 5. They installed rail fencing at a few areas between Ridge Road and Seneca Mills where there are drop-offs from the trail edge at culverts. They also installed a railing in front of the fallen log benches overlooking the Outlet downstream from the Seneca Mills waterfalls. This project is part of the Friends of the Outlet efforts to improve safety and security along the trail.



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

KeukaOutletTrail.org/events

Facebook.com/KeukaOutletTrail

OR

E-mail:
community@KeukaOutletTrail.org



KEUKA OUTLET TRAIL

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

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

Check us out at:

Facebook.com/
KeukaOutletTrail

Website:
KeukaOutletTrail.org

Trail Coordinates:

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



KEUKA OUTLET TRAIL

Friends of the Outlet, Inc.

Volunteer Corner

The Keuka College Men's Lacrosse team returned to the trail this September for the third consecutive year. While in previous years, they helped to clean up the area surrounding Seneca Mills Falls, this year they lent their muscle to our efforts to clean up the Cascade Mills Falls area. Their project included clearing brush along the water, painting and cleaning up inside the maintenance building and other spaces still in use, and cleaning and staining picnic tables that will be used in the pavilion that will be constructed on the site.



SUPPORT FRIENDS OF THE OUTLET

Find information about membership,
sponsorship, donations, and volunteering at:
www.keukaoutlettrail.org/get-involved

