

Special Interest Articles:

Design Connect:
Envisioning Cascade

On the Trail of the
Haudenosaunee



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Design Connect: Envisioning Cascade

After four long semester months of research, study and writing/designing, the DesignConnect students delivered their proposal for what could be developed at the Cascades site on the Keuka Outlet Trail.

This project strives to understand and explain the historical and cultural significance of the trail and its modern-day usage. Using material that they gleaned from the November public input session held in Penn Yan, extensive research of the site and best practices

reported in other communities, the twelve students presented several conceptual ideas. Their lengthy report and visual images will be available at the January 18 BOD meeting of FOTO.

Since much of the outlet has been designated a cultural preservation site, the presentation included recommendations for preservation of some structures and adaptive reuse of others. One image that drew a lot of attention was of a performance stage and seating in the round

made from an old oil tank base. Another was of a ramp and dock that afforded safe access to the water.

The students invested considerable time in brainstorming and portraying ways to bring the public to the Cascade site to combat the vandalism that has so long plagued the buildings there. Of course, new access roads and parking were shown, as was an outdoor movie shown against the wall that was preserved from the oldest part of the mill. (Continued, Page 3)

Trail Repairs are Complete

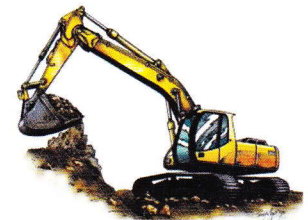
The Friends of the Outlet and trail users appreciate the trail repair work that was recently completed by the Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District and other agencies.

Soil & Water Conservation staff secured \$150,000 in funding from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through State Sen. Thomas O'Mara's office. The work was completed in partnership with

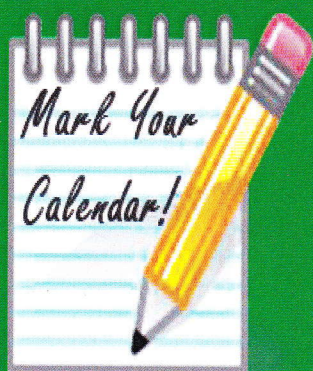
Chemung and Schuyler County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, with the Milo Highway Department providing a dozer and operator to assist with final grading and repair to the trail surface.

The skills and resources needed to make these repairs are well beyond the abilities of the Friends of the Outlet. This is an example of the cooperative effort that is needed to protect both

the Keuka Outlet waterway that feeds Seneca Lake, and the trail that so many of us return to regularly for a pleasant stroll, afternoon of fishing, or refreshing run or bike ride.



(Check out Page 7 to see the improvements made to Site #1)



Upcoming Events. . . .

January 18, 2017 –

Quarterly Meeting
7:00 PM
Lyons National Bank

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

February 25, 2017 –

Hiking the Outlet Trail with Camera and Photographer
Saturday 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Led by Steve Knapp of Keukaview Photography

Join us for an afternoon on the Trail to learn techniques for photographing winter nature scenes.

Meet at Seneca Mills parking area (Lions) at 2:00 PM. See page 7.

FOTO Strategic Plan

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Outlet adopted a Strategic Plan in September 2016.

The primary goals of the plan are:

1. Remove five major safety concerns along the Outlet. Work on repairs to flood-damaged areas, a project of the Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District,
2. Make and implement recommendations for the Friends' website and electronic presence.

was recently completed. The board expects that some of the recommendations from the Design Connect plan will include improvements that can be made in the area of Cascade Mills.

3. Make the Outlet Trail more user friendly with additional signage, parking, and benches.
4. Promote the importance, impact, and the role of the Outlet Trail in local economic development.

To review the entire Strategic Plan, visit www.keukaoutlettrail.org

FOTO Membership Campaign: Be a Part of our Trail!

Help us ensure a sustainable future for our Trail.

The Outlet Trail is owned, maintained and improved by the Friends of the Outlet, an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization devoted to protecting and preserving the history, lands and waters in the Keuka Outlet ravine.

Keeping the trail safe and enjoyable requires regular maintenance throughout the year.

You can do your part to help the trail grow as an asset for Penn Yan, Dresden and the Finger Lakes region by becoming a Friend of the Outlet (FOTO).

As a FRIEND, you will benefit through:

- Supporting a valuable community resource
- Receiving invitations to special Trail events
- Trail Bumper Sticker
- A subscription to the quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to participate in quarterly Trail meetings

In addition, your support will:

- Enable Trail maintenance and repairs
- Assist with purchases to help keep the Trail safe
- Aid volunteers at work along the Trail
- Develop programs and activities

Membership Program pamphlets are available at the following locations:

Lyon's National Bank, Community Bank, Water Street Wine Bar, Long's Book Store, Morgan's, Oak Hill, Dairyman's Diner, and Water Street Liquor Store.

or visit:

www.keukaoutlettrail.org

Join Us!

Design Connect: Envisioning Cascade (continued)

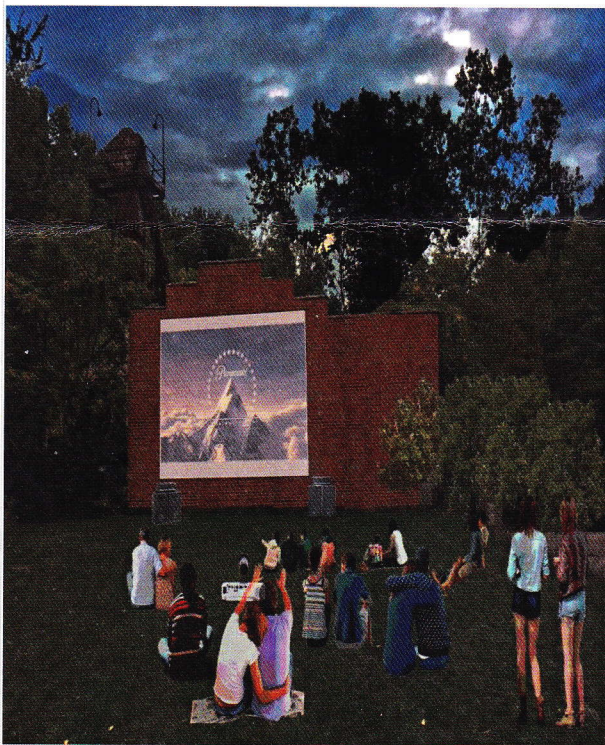
One building was converted to a museum which would house the many artifacts and tell the story of industry, settlement, transportation, geology, flora and fauna of the gorge and outlet creek.

Initial improvements over the next two years would be to attract more attention and to suggest fund raising methods for the projects. For the community to invest in the long term success of the site, they need more positive experiences at it and to have the opportunity to learn more about the history and the future plan for the site, said the report. There followed fund raising and grant suggestions, more wayfinding signs, interpretive signs and more programming; special events like music and movies and interpretive walks with flora and fauna explained, as well as birding talks and historic tours.

Some of the suggestions will take considerable time and money to develop as concepts and as projects. Many that were present could see some ideas worth "growing in to, but not feasible today." The report certainly provides the board with much to discuss and prioritize.

(DesignConnect at Cornell is a student led, faculty supervised, design and preservation studio course offered in many communities.)

Visions of a Possible Cascade



Left photo—Once buildings on the east side of Cascade are shored up and/or removed, the oldest remaining wall could stand as a public space for sponsored movie events. Such special events uses encourage people to visit the location for a unique experience, stand to generate revenues through issuing a recommended donation as an entrance fee or vending concessions, and allow for the existing uses of the site to continue.

Right photo—In the water access photo, the design group has created a formal access point to the water, given that water is a defining characteristic of the site and emphasizes the natural feature of the landscape. Trail users currently access the outlet from any one of several ill-defined, prickly laden, self-made paths. This behavior can be hazardous and a liability of the site. A formal access point would require a survey of the location, removal of existing debris, engineering that considered possible flooding and possible removal of natural vegetation at the site.

On the Trail of the Haudenosaunee

In the long stretch of time between the glacier's melting and the American Revolution, the stream that tumbles from Keuka to Seneca Lake did so without much disturbance from humans.

The land was heavily wooded with huge beeches, sugar maples, basswoods, hickories, walnuts and oaks. There were wolves and bears padding down the ravines, moose and elk, even buffalo grazing in the clearings.

When the Seneca settled in the area they called the stream Minneseta. A well-traveled footpath from the Susquehanna up to Canada crossed it not far from its mouth.

Sullivan's raid in 1779 broke the back of Iroquois power in the region; and his soldiers were so impressed by the area's beauty and evident fertility that they carried back glowing reports to the more crowded east. Settlers began to trickle into the country.

They needed land to grow their wheat on and power to move their millwheels.

Sometime in the spring of 1788, seven or eight families, numbering 25 people under the leadership of a man named James Parker

entered the country. They were members of a religious sect who wanted to separate themselves from the temptations of the world. Several parties had explored the area during the previous three years and pronounced it suitable.

The pioneers camped beside the east shore of Seneca Lake, it's said, and heard the roar of a waterfall across the lake; and finding the mouth of the stream they explored it.

Parker and his companions decided to found their settlement on the hill a mile south of the stream. By 1790 when the first federal census was taken, 260 people were living there. The town on the knoll known as City Hill was at that time by far the largest in western New York, bigger than Geneva and Canandaigua put together. Its people knew it as Jerusalem, or more simply Friend's Settlement, after the remarkable woman who led them: Jemima Wilkinson, The Publick Universal Friend.

They sowed 12 acres of winter wheat in 1788 and harvested it the following year, meanwhile surviving, as one woman remembered it years later, on milk and boiled nettles.

Being practical people as well as pious ones, the Friend's followers had purchased millstones in New Milford, Connecticut that same first autumn, hauled them upstream on ox sleds to the falls at the future site of Seneca Mills and completed the first mill in western New York on July 4, 1790. On July 5, ten bushels of new wheat were ground into flour.

The history of Keuka Lake Outlet as a source of industrial power had begun.

For more history of the Trail by Fran Dumas, visit our website – www.keukaoutlettrail.org

Ralph Waldo

Emerson wrote

that:

"...man is a bundle

of relations, a knot

of roots,

whose flower and

fruitage is the

world..."



**"Take only
memories.
Leave
nothing but
footprints."**

-Chief Seattle

The Trail: Memories in the Making

The trail is in Mickey Orr's blood.

Growing up on Seneca Street in Penn Yan, Mickey spent countless hours fishing, swimming, hunting, catching crabs, and exploring.

A smile flashes across Mickey's face as he reminisces about hanging ropes off the trestle to swing from, building sledding trails in

the winter, forts in the summer, and on occasion hopping on a passing train for a short ride!

Mickey continues to make the Trail an important part of his life as a member of the Board of the Friends of the Outlet. Mickey has served on the Board for five years and works diligently to keep the Trail well maintained

and groomed. You might find Mickey trimming shrubs, removing fallen trees, or repairing hiking bridges - all necessary for current and future generations as they visit to make their own Trail memories.

Mickey values the treasure that is the Trail and hopes that someday the county or state will invest in this valuable historical and geographical resource in our region.

#Buzz from the Trail

Keuka Outlet Trail users often let us know who they are and who they are with. When they visit they sometimes leave a brief note to share their thoughts.

We appreciate seeing where people come from and what they think of the trail. This

kind of user information is helpful as we plan for the future.

Look for new clipboards for visitors to leave their information and comments coming sometime in 2017.

Next time you visit, we hope you take time to leave us a note!



"Lovely trail! Wider in a few places would be nicer for our recumbent tandem" Sept. 4, 2016 David & Chris Pesses

"Great ride. More interpretation would be nice, but trail itself is terrific! Thank you!" Rob & Deb Fallon, Cooksburg, PA

"A row of girls on bike all local "- Floyd, Ada Mae, & Titus Hoover

Elizabeth Miller, Hudson, NY

Kathy & Kevin Murphy, Paradise Valley, Arizona



Pointing the Way: Trail Signage – Educational, Informational, Interpretive

A Signs Committee is developing a plan for improved communication with signs to and along the Keuka Outlet Trail.

The committee, which includes directors Gwen Chamberlain, Carol Worth, and Kristi Hoag, and graphic designer Paulina Garces-Reid, has identified the need for a cohesive system of signs for informational and interpretive purposes.

The committee is working on a design and plan for funding new Welcome to the Keuka Outlet Trail

signs that will be installed at the Dresden Trailhead, Hopeton parking area, Ridge Road parking area, Lions Parking area near Seneca Mill site, and Fox Mill.

Each sign will include trail use guidelines, a trail map, some interpretive details about the history of the trail where each sign will be located and information about the Friends of the Outlet.

In early 2017 the committee will unveil the design and begin fundraising efforts. The Signs

Committee will also work on updating the temporary distance markers, and wayfinding signs helping visitors locate the trail from locations within the village of Penn Yan and towns of Milo and Torrey. To find out how to support this committee's efforts, please contact Gwen Chamberlain at gchamberlain@stny.rr.com.



"Come walk with me down this waterfall staircase that descends from Keuka to Seneca Lake. We'll follow the path..."

-Ralph W. Seager

Steward of the Trail

Climbing the hills of the Outlet Trail Road towards Townsend Road and Stiles, you can't help but get a sense of the raw nature of the Trail just outside the village. And in this season there is more rushing water and fewer leaves to obscure it. This is where Keuka Outlet Trail board member Ivan Oberholtzer lives.

Ivan has been on the board for 7 years, serving two 3-year terms and an overlap year. But his involvement with the Trail and board meetings goes back 15 years, a few years after he moved to the area from PA to marry his bride.

"This is such a great place to enjoy nature and be outdoors, and it's just a huge bonus having it here in my back yard," comments Ivan as we gaze down at the rushing water.

"Living right here on the Trail, I like to keep things safe; cutting out dangerous wood and fallen trees, mowing and helping with maintenance," said Ivan, who's been doing it since before he landed on the board. As a metal worker, Ivan is also our bridge builder, maker of coin boxes for donations and the craftsman who installed the railing for the

overlook at the Cascades waterfalls.

While Ivan hopes many more people will learn about and enjoy the Trail, he said he sort of likes the raw, natural aspects of the Trail the way it is. But he said there are some pretty big and urgent cleanup projects. In addition, he would love to see crusher run gravel dust define the Trail from Penn Yan to Dresden to create a more safe and uniform surface for bikers, walkers, and runners.

Although Ivan leaves the board this April, he plans to continue volunteering.

New Photography Event

Join us as we hike the Trail from Seneca Mills to Penn Yan and back, looking for photo opportunities. The Sat., Feb. 25th event will include photography tips with some Outlet Trail History and Geology.

Photographers at all levels are welcome and new members are encouraged to join.

The best shots will be submitted by participants and then entered into this year's "Outlet Trail Photo Contest," and may be published in our newsletter and on our website.

Photographing and hiking the Outlet Trail, led by professional

photographer, Steve Knapp of Keukaview Photography, Friend of the Outlet,
www.keukaview.com

Meet at Seneca Mills parking area (Lions) with camera at 2:00 PM. Space Limited. To register, email: carolworth280@gmail.com



Sat. Feb. 25th, 2-4 PM

Rest for the Weary... on Outlet Trail Benches

Keep your eyes peeled this spring for nearly 20 benches going up along the Outlet Trail from Penn Yan to Dresden. Thanks to three grants (Class of 2016, Rotary and one to FOTO) all hikers and bikers will have a chance to stop and catch their breath. One of the most loved things about the Trail is its natural raw beauty, and now you will be able to stop and take time to appreciate it.

Site #1 Trail Repair (Continued from page 1)



Hikers and walkers are already commenting on the incredible improvements at the old "tree swing" site where a Yates Soil and Water grant was able to cover costs for the repair of extensive damage caused by the flood of 2014.

Friends of the Outlet, Inc.

Mailing Address:

Friends of the Outlet
PO Box 65
Dresden, NY 14441

Email:

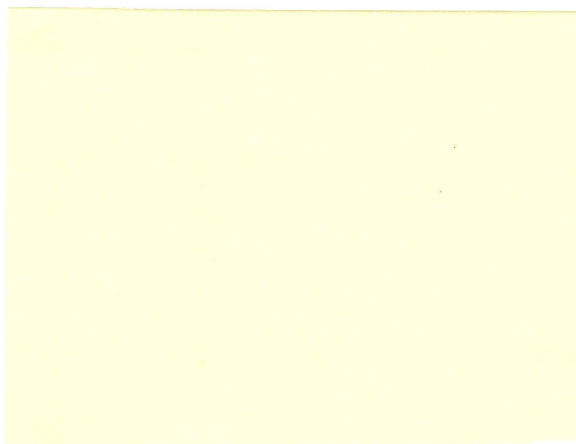
pdthompson@hughes.net

Trail Coordinates:

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

FRIENDS OF THE OUTLET, INC.
PO BOX 65
DRESDEN, NY 14441

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About Our Organization

Hike, bike, or ski, the Keuka Outlet Trail and history will be all around you. Between Penn Yan, on Keuka Lake, and Dresden, on Seneca Lake, the trail travels along the towpath of the Crooked Lake Canal, through a tree-shaded gorge of shale and limestone that was formed at the end of the last ice age. This later became the track bed of the Fall Brook Railroad,

On the south side of the trail, you'll see the Outlet Creek whose water, at one time, powered as many as forty mills. Over

the course of nearly 200 years these mills produced grist and flour, distilled goods, leather, flax seed oil, processed fibers, lumber, wooden tools and implements, paper, carbon disulfide, and many other products.

In many places along the trail, the remains of mills, mill ponds, and mill races are still visible.

On the north side of the trail, you'll see remnants of the canal prism, although after the canal closed in 1877, many of the stones were removed

and recycled into mill foundations. At Seneca Mills Falls, the trail dips into the canal bed and passes through Lock #17.

The trail is open from sunrise to sunset. Snowmobiling, horseback riding, and dog walking are permitted.

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CHECK OUT OUR



WEB SITE!

We're on the Web!

www.keukaoutlettrail.org