

Shannon Morley—Conservation Education Program Coordinator

Shannon earned her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1998. After graduation she worked as a GIS intern for the Monroe County Planning department, and as a drafter for BBL, an environmental consulting firm. She started her work as an environmental educator with a DEC Naturalist internship at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar, NY during the winter of 2004.

From 2004-2005 she volunteered as a tidepool monitor and steward for Crystal Cove State Park; as an educator, hostess and habitat restoration assistant for Bolsa Chica Conservancy; and an education docent and aquarist for the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA. From 2005-2012 she worked as the full-time Staff Naturalist for Helmer Nature Center in Irondequoit, where she developed and taught curriculum-based school field trip programs, outreach programs, Girl Scout programs and educational events.



Shannon with volunteer Charlie Augrom



Snowshoes Ready!

In the fall of 2012 she moved to Fairfax County VA, where she worked as a Roving Naturalist for several county parks and implemented new standards-based school programs and Girl Scout programming. She also worked as an educator for Cub Run RECenter, Frying Pan Farm Park, and Hidden Pond Nature Center. On the farm she witnessed the birth of a calf and got to name it (Larissa), milked cows, bottle-fed tiny Nubian goat kids, and taught preschool programs about peachicks (baby peacocks) and third grade science programs about simple machines. With Hidden Pond Nature Center she taught summer and winter camps, school programs, and public programs on pond and wetland life and nature. Shannon also served as Assistant Coach for the Hidden Pond Envirothon Team, who took 15th place at the North American competition in 2013. Her work with the Fairfax County Park Authority was recognized with a Director's Leadership Award, Outstanding Interpretive Project and Program awards, and the "Rookie of

the Year" Interpretive Excellence Award. Shannon completed her training and became a Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) with the National Association for Interpretation (NAI).

She started her job as the Conservation Education Program Coordinator for the Genesee County Parks in January of 2015. She is very excited to be working for Genesee County, and she looks forward to serving the parks and contributing to their excellent program offerings.



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Welcome New ACORNS Members!

Mike Anderson
Wendy Balduf
The Dambra Family
The Denson Family
Melissa Keller
Katie Klehn
Cheryl Konfederath
Megan McCormick
Julie Roberts
Jayne Shearing
Joanne Sheeler
Eileen Sheridan
Debbie Smith
Ron Starkweather
Paula Sullivan
Steve Scott and Family



Saturday Snowshoeing!

Deep, fluffy snow made this winter perfect for snowshoeing!



A sunlit meadow stroll



Friends enjoying a sunny day!



A soft resting place.



Winter wonderland walk



Group photo at the frozen pond.



Charlie leads a hike to the cemetery

More Tree Tidbits: Did you know?

- There are over 23,000 different kinds of trees in the world.
- Some bristlecone pines are thought to be over 5000 years old.
- In Greater Kansas City, trees remove 26,000 tons of air pollution each year.
- One large tree can provide a day's supply of oxygen for up to four people.
- There is less graffiti, vandalism and littering in outdoor spaces with trees as part of the natural landscape compared to places with no plants.

Amazing Amphibians

ACORNS Volunteers and Park Staff get training from a visiting researcher

Amphibians. Elusive, slimy, delicate creatures. What amphibians live in Genesee County Park? Where can we find them? What is their ecological role and why are they so sensitive? The ACORNS group got answers to these questions and more with a visit from John Bateman, a researcher currently pursuing his PHD on biogeochemical responses to wetland restoration techniques.

Amphibians are ectothermic (referred to as cold-blooded) vertebrates. Most of them have gills at some point during their life cycle, and need aquatic and land habitats to complete their life cycle. They have moist, porous skin that they use to breathe through, making them susceptible to damage from water pollution.

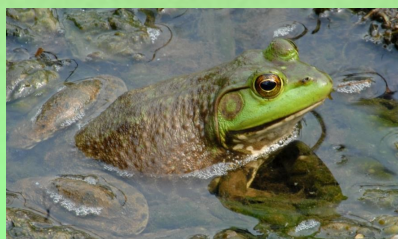
Some of the interesting and common amphibians of our area:



John Bateman



Wood frog — One of the first frogs to call in the spring, is able to freeze completely solid and unfreeze in warmer weather.



American bullfrog — the largest frog in our state.



Grey tree frog— song like that of a bird, sings at night from the trees. Their toes have adhesive discs!



Eastern red-spotted newt — Teenage "eft" stage is terrestrial. They produce the same poison in their body as the pufferfish!



Spotted salamander—Visits pools and lays eggs on sticks, has a symbiotic relationship with algae!

For more information on the wonderful amphibian wildlife across your state, visit

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7140.html>



The best way to hold a frog.

On the day of our meeting with John it was too cold to find amphibians outdoors. The best time to observe them is on a wet night in the springtime, when the temperature is above 40 degrees. That is when they come out to find a mate and lay eggs. Join us on Saturday April 18th for Amphibian Adventure, when we will be visiting their habitats, listening for their songs, and doing some wildlife monitoring!

March	April	May	June	July
	← Chorus Frog →			
	← Wood Frog →			
	← Spring Peeper →			
	← American Toad →			
	← Northern Leopard Frog →			
	← Pickeral Frog →			
	← Fowler's Toad →			
	← Gray Treefrog →			
		← Green Frog →		
		← Bullfrog →		

The timing of different frog songs.

Source: Natural History, Ecology, and Conservation of Local Amphibians by John A. Bateman

Bluebird Nesting Season 2015

ACORNS help out the bluebirds



Charlie and Sarah cleaning out last year's nest.



Sarah and Eileen checking for needed repairs.



Mike says this box is ready for new residents!



Milkweed down makes a comfy home for a mouse!



Placing 2 new boxes



All ready for spring and summer 2015!

We have 29 bluebird nest boxes that need to be checked once a week this summer!

Contact us at 585-344-1122 if you'd like to help!

Collect used printer cartridges to help us earn...



We are helping to keep the earth clean while earning new equipment and cash. You can help by saving used cartridges and cell phones! Just come by the Genesee County Park Interpretive Center and drop them off!

Volunteer Needed to box and ship cartridges.

Make a Difference!



Meet the ACORNS

(Association for the Conservation OF Natural and Recreational Spaces)

The ACORNS is the volunteer group formed to support the Genesee County Parks by assisting with environmental programs and park maintenance, offering recreational opportunities and promoting the parks.



ACORNS Board of Directors:

Julia Garver, President
Mary Jane Pearce, Vice-President
Barbara Easton, Treasurer
Jim Schmitt, Secretary
Charlie Augrom
Daisy Klein
Clare Sloat
Ginny Tiede
Mary Yunker

Members:

Nancy Gerspacher	Megan McCormick	Clare & Ron Sloat
Mike Anderson	Scott McCumiskey & Family	Debbie Smith
Norm Argulsky	Gordon Meek	George Squires
Charlie Augrom	Bill & Connie Moon	Ron Starkweather
Nancy Baker	Terri & Michael Muehlig	Sandy & Dave Steele
Sarah Balduf	Kathy Owen	Paula Sullivan
Wendy Balduf	Dave & Val Patten	Virginia & Don Tiede
Julie Bartz	Mary Jane Pearce	Kathie Woika
Matt Britt	Julie Roberts	Dennis & Jennifer Wood
Corinne & Russ Coffta	Jim & Debbie Kerr-Rosenbeck	Mary Yunker
The Dambra Family	Mari Runfola	
The Denson Family	Jim Schmitt	
Barbara & Mike Easton	The Scott Family	If your name is not on this list, it may be time to renew your membership!
Marjorie & Jim Fulmer	Jayne Shearing	
David & Marcia Gann	Joanne Sheeler	
Julia Garver & Joe Ruh	Eileen Sheridan	
The Gentry Family		

Join us for ACORNS volunteer days every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10am-12pm. ACORNS meetings are held every 4th Tuesday evening of the month at the Interpretive Center at 5pm.

ACORNS website: <http://acorns.shutterfly.com>



RUN FOR THE ACORNS 2015

Sunday, October 11th

ACORNS is looking for a few great volunteers to help out and have fun! Contact us at

<https://runfortheacorns.shutterfly.com>



Spring Programs!

Amphibian Adventure

Come get to know your small, slimy, singing neighbors and pest-eating pals. Learn about them, find them, find out how to help them.

Saturday, April 18th 7:00—8:30 pm



Pond Discovery



Delve into some wild creature encounters! Be prepared to get muddy and wet, you will be using a net and sharing a bucket of water to catch animals, and learn about them from a Naturalist Guide.

Saturday, May 9th 10:00—11:30 am

Full Moon Hike



Be part of the magic of spring! Explore the forest by moonlight, search for animals, hear old stories, and discover the world waking up from a long, cold winter.

Saturday May 2nd, 7:30–9:00

Full Flower Moon

\$5/person, \$10/family

Pre-registration Required Call 585-344-1122

Envirothon 2015



Envirothon teams, 2014

Envirothon 2015 is here and bigger than ever! Fourteen teams of science-loving high school students from across the area will converge on Genesee County Park & Forest to test their knowledge of Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, Wildlife, and this year's special topic: Urban Forestry. Teams and their coaches will spend 2 days at the park, training, competing in oral presentations, and competing in field tests. The winners of this competition will attend the New York State Envirothon competition in

Geneva at the end of May. Volunteers are needed to assist with both of the competition dates!

Thursday, April 30th 8:45—2:00:

- 🌍 Pass out t-shirts and assist registration and sign-in
- 🌍 Deliver, prepare, clean up lunch
- 🌍 Assist presenters with workshops
- 🌍 Watch teams and help teams move to their presentation rooms
- 🌍 Lead groups of students from the Interpretive Center to workshops
- 🌍 Cleanup

Thursday, May 7th 8:45—1:30:

- 🌍 Deliver, prepare, clean up lunch
- 🌍 Assist presenters with testing
- 🌍 Lead groups of students from the Interpretive Center to testing areas
- 🌍 Cleanup

Contact us at 344-1122 to volunteer for this exciting educational event!

Sustainable Still Life Photography Exhibit

Engaging, thought-provoking, unique still life photography captures the essence and significance of sustainability in the work of students from Joe Ziolkowski's COM 118 and COM 103 courses at GCC. The exhibit opens at the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center on Friday, May 8th. Doors open at 6 pm for a two-hour gala where the artists and their mentor may share their perspective and experiences. The exhibit will be on display at the Interpretive Center from Friday May 8th until Saturday, September 12th, 2015.



Ellen Fridman, *Pin It*
"...Hanging laundry out to dry instead of turning on the dryer lowers carbon emissions, reduces gas or electric bills, helps clothing and linens last longer, and establishes an excuse to get outside..."

Summer 2015



Please join us in welcoming AmeriCorps volunteer Brandi Giambrone for the summer! Brandi will be working as an environmental education assistant at the Interpretive Center, starting at the end of May. She is in her third year of study at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in the field of Environmental Education and Interpretation. She will be helping us with summer recreation programs and a new Saturday afternoon nature series!

BEA Career Exploration Summer Camps 2015 **Registration opens April 15th!** **REGISTER ONLINE AT www.beagenesee.com**

Camp Hard Hat

August 3-5 9 am—4 pm

Learn about Careers in Construction while you actually build parts of a community project!! Instructed by certified teachers and GVEP building trades instructors. Optional overnight program on the night of August 4th.

Open to students entering 8-9 Grade

Location: Genesee County Park, transportation provided via bus to and from Batavia

\$65/Camper—Includes lunch, snacks, hard hat, and t-shirt—Scholarships are available.



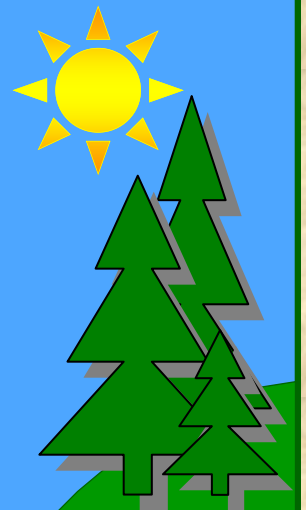
Summer Saturdays

Hikes, games, and FUN as we explore a different topic each week!

Saturdays 1:30—2:45 pm

Meet at the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Center

June 6th	Turtles
June 27th	Birds
July 18th	A Rotten Place to Live
August 1st	Forest Explorers
August 8th	Trees



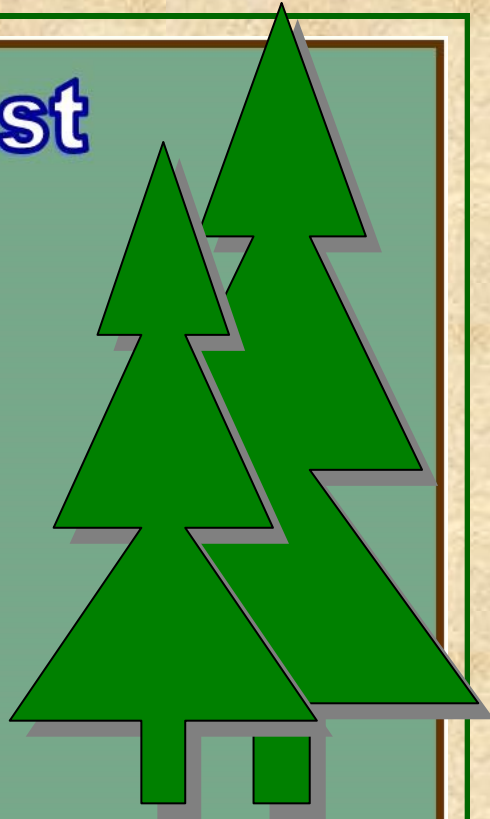
\$5/person, \$10/family

Registration Recommended! Call 585-344-1122

Genesee County Forest 100th Anniversary!

New York State's Oldest County Forest turns 100 this year!

Enjoy your forest this
summer with **FREE**
Saturday programs:



Saturday June 20th:
The Story of the County Forest 1:30—2:45 pm



Saturday July 11th:
What Trees Know 1:30—2:45 pm



Saturday July 25th:
Would You Believe It Comes from Trees?
1:30—2:45 pm

Join the Celebration!

100th Anniversary ForestFest!

Saturday August 29th 10 am — 4 pm



Enjoy guided hikes, forest games and more!

Registration is recommended, call 344-1122 · Genesee County Park and Forest
11095 Bethany Center Road · East Bethany, NY 14054

**Genesee County Park & Forest
Interpretive Nature Center**

11095 Bethany Center Rd.
East Bethany, NY 14054

Phone: 585-344-1122
Fax: 585-343-6611

Visit

www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/

Full Moon Hike

Sat. May 2nd 2015

7:30 - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$5/person, \$10/family



Do you have nature-related books you no longer want or have room for? We are developing a lending library. Adults will be able to sign out books to take home and read. When you're done reading, bring them back and sign out some more.. (Magazines and encyclopedias not needed.)



Genesee County Parks,
Recreation & Forestry

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