



# Seedlings

Volume 4, Issue 4

## Spotlight on Volunteers

The Genesee County Parks have grown and thrived over many decades because of the support and contributions of the community, volunteers and many organizations. For example the Interpretive Nature Center was built by volunteers and Job Corps, the Outdoor Learning Center was built by ACORNS and Camp Hard Hat, and many educational outdoor features were installed by Boy Scouts. On Volunteer Appreciation Day this year we honored our current individual park volunteers and recognized volunteers who have given over 500, 1000 or 2000 hours of work to the parks since recordkeeping began in 2006.

Charlie Augrom is known in the larger community as "The Bee Man", and is known at the parks as "Crazy Charlie". Charlie leads super fun educational and recreational programs for kids and the public. He gets his nickname from his adventurous moonlight snowshoe hikes on evenings in January and February. Charlie has made myriad contributions over the years including bluebird monitoring, attending community events, and greeting at the Interpretive Nature Center. He is also a beekeeper and maintains our live observation hive exhibit and extracts honey from his local bees and provides it for sale at the Interpretive Nature Center front desk. All proceeds support the ACORNS.

Jim Schmitt is a talented woodworker and great outdoor enthusiast. Jim built the display case and the "Know Your Nests" display in the Interpretive Nature Center and the benches in the gathering area of the ACORNS OLC. He volunteers as "Mr. Jeopardy" and leader of pond study for educational programs with kids and helps out with public programs. Jim assists with all kinds of outdoor and trail tasks in the parks, is a trail coordinator for the Run for the ACORNS, and currently serves as webmaster for the ACORNS.

George Squires has given over 2000 hours of volunteer time to the parks. George leads educational and recreational programs and volunteer trainings, maintains the bird feeding station and the Outdoor Learning Center, works the front desk at the Interpretive Nature Center, assists with program prep and serves as a trail coordinator for the Run for the ACORNS, Treasurer of ACORNS, Chairman of the Parks Advisory Committee, Chairman of the Byron Parks Committee and as Secretary of the Black Creek Watershed Committee.

Julia Garver is the fearless leader and president of ACORNS. She writes grant proposals, secures sponsorships, coordinates volunteer activities and trainings, oversees Run for the ACORNS, assists with park programs, works the Interpretive Nature Center front desk, and many other tasks. Julia is also a board member of GO ART!, GLOW YWCA, the Ronald McDonald House and a member of the Genesee County, NY and American Bar Associations.



1000 Volunteer Hours plaque at the Interpretive Nature Center



From the left: Park volunteers Lewis Tandy, George Squires, Bonnie Tandy, Jeff Wolak, Shannon Lyaski (Cons. Ed. Program Coordinator), Pete Stanbridge, Julia Garver, Kathy Purcell, Jeff Langdon, Priscilla Langdon, Paul Osborn (Parks Supervisor), Sarah Balduf, Jim Schmitt, Charlie Augrom, Lee Johnson, Kathy Gilhooly

500 hours, 1000 hours, 2000 hours is a LOT of time away from all of the other things in life — time with friends and family, hobbies, relaxing, and of course housework!! We thank the families and friends of volunteers who support them in their work!

Park volunteers do everything from trail ranger work to live animal care to marketing to leading public educational and recreational programs. We can't possibly list all of their contributions here. There is no end to the talented and amazing things that all of the volunteers do for the parks. They work hard to accomplish a great deal, and have tons of fun doing it. We can't possibly repay them for what they give, all we can do is say **THANK YOU** for everything, from the bottom of our hearts.



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### Interpretive Nature Center Hours October—May:

Thursday—Friday:  
10 am—4 pm

Saturday—Sunday:  
12—4 pm

### Interpretive Nature Center Funding Supported by:



NYS OPRHP ZBGA Grant





# Summer and Fall 2018



Dylan sprints to the finish in the Kids Fun Run



Camp Hard Hat enjoys outdoor cooking for dinner



Environmental Science Career Exploration Camp follows NYSDEC ENCON K9 officer Handley



ESCE Campers report invasive species



Park volunteer releases a tagged Monarch butterfly during park program Watching Monarchs



The winning team of Camp Hard Hat overnight scavenger hunt competition



# Internships and Volunteer Positions Available

**Meet New People, Help the Parks, Have FUN!!**

**Volunteers make park events and programs possible!!**

- Maintain exhibits at Interpretive Nature Center
- \* Lead and assist recreation and outdoor education programs at the parks
  - \* Guide park visitors
  - \* Help with park improvement projects
  - \* Monitor park wildlife
  - \* Get experience

**Every volunteer makes a BIG difference!!**

**Contact: Shannon Lyaski, Conservation Education Program Coordinator at (585) 344-1122**

## RSVP – Volunteering for 55 and Older

The Genesee County Park has been partnering with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) since 2002, where interested volunteers 55 and older have found meaningful volunteer activities close to nature and to their hearts. In Genesee County, over 325 adults serve our community as RSVP members. Their volunteer experiences range from one-time events to weekly placements in one or more of our 20+ partner agencies. You can volunteer as little or as much as you desire at the Genesee County Park and with other agencies in our community who rely on volunteers to achieve their mission and goals. RSVP strives to connect volunteers with fruitful experiences based on individual interests and abilities, so that together we can improve the quality of life in our community.

## Scout Opportunities

**Genesee County Park & Forest and DeWitt Recreation Area provide volunteer opportunities for Scouts of all ages. Scouts earn service hours by:**

- 🌐 **Assisting with programs**
- 🌐 **Creating trail signs**
- 🌐 **Monitoring nest boxes**
- 🌐 **Maintaining and working in the ACORNS Outdoor Learning Center**
- 🌐 **Hosting duties and cleaning the Interpretive Nature Center**
- 🌐 **Providing turtle care**
- 🌐 **Participating in a number of other volunteer activities and events.**

**Bronze, Silver, Gold Award projects and Eagle Scout projects also available.**

**Projects currently available are installation of interpretive trail signs and construction of predator guards for bluebird nest boxes.**

**Eagle Scout Projects please contact Paul Osborn at (585) 344-8508. For Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award Projects please contact Shannon Lyaski at (585) 344-1122.**



# ACORNS Adventures

## Niagara Gorge Hike

It's late October — where can you hike that's beautiful, unique, interesting, challenging, gives you spectacular foliage views, and is not too far away? The Niagara River Gorge, of course!!

ACORNS met at the Artpark State Park on Sunday October 28th for a geologic history hike. A Naturalist greeted them and lead them up the gorge to the location where the Niagara River fell over the Onondaga Escarpment 12,000 years ago. Geologic features of the gorge came to life with the explanations given by the Naturalist guide.

A wonderful time was had by all, and the day was extra special as Lewis Tandy celebrated his 70th birthday. Happy Birthday Lewis! ACORNS does outings once per season. Visit ACORNS at <https://www.geneseecorn.org/> !



ACORNS at the Niagara River Gorge

## Bluebird Nesting Season 2018

Flashback to January of 2018, when FORCES volunteers from SUNY Geneseo teamed up with ACORNS to create better bluebird boxes. In effort to eliminate nest parasitization and predation by House Sparrows and House Wrens, "sparrow spookers" were created from dollar store birthday banners and pvc tubing. As recommended by Carl Zanger of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, the shiny mylar strips flutter in the wind and scare away House Sparrows from the nest box. However, scary as the shiny things are, they do not deter the Eastern Bluebirds from occupying and returning to the nest box. We took Carl's advice. Volunteers created the new nest boxes and sparrow spookers during the winter. Sparrow spookers were then installed on top of each nest box immediately following the laying of the first egg.



FORCES create "sparrow spookers"



It worked like a charm. No House Sparrows entered the bluebird boxes this year, and no House Wrens pecked the bluebird eggs. Because the Eastern Bluebird parents were able to raise their nestlings without predation, this year's nesting season was a huge success, resulting in the highest number of bluebird fledglings we've had in several years. Wildlife Monitoring Volunteers check the nest boxes once a week and record on the number of eggs laid, number of hatchlings, and species using each box. This data is shared with NestWatch and the New York State Bluebird Society to track bird population, abundance and distribution over time.

Join us for our FREE public program **Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring** on **Saturday, March 23rd** from 1:00 to 3:00! Learn about monitoring and prepare boxes for the season!

**Wildlife Monitoring Volunteers kept watch over 10 nest boxes at Genesee County Park & Forest and 5 nest boxes at DeWitt Recreation Area in 2018**

**Total fledglings for 2018:**

**Eastern Bluebirds: 21**

**Tree Swallows: 27**

**House Wrens: 0**

**Bluebird monitoring season begins on March 23rd, 2019! Join us for Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring and discover to monitor the boxes and help keep baby birds happy and healthy. Call 585-344-1122 to register and find out how to volunteer this year!**



# Meet the ACORNS

(Association for the Conservation Of Recreational and Natural 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  
Sarah Balduf, Vice-President  
George Squires, Treasurer  
Jerome Gentry, Secretary  
Charlie Augrom  
Sam Leadley  
Bill Moon  
Deb Nanni  
Lewis Tandy

## Members:

Marilyn Abdella  
Norm Argulski  
Charlie Augrom  
Sarah Balduf  
Pam & Steve Brady  
Tom & Linda Clark  
Guy & Patricia Clark, Jr.  
Bart & Sue Dambra  
The Denson Family  
Barbara & Mike Easton  
Marjorie & Jim Fulmer  
Dave & Marcia Gann  
Kathy Gilhooly  
Julia Garver & Joe Ruh  
Mary Ann Gately  
The Gentry Family  
Nancy Gerspacher  
Kathy Gilhooly  
Peggy Grayson  
Janis & Stuart Hempel

Lynn Hessley  
Kathy Jensen  
Ellie Jinks  
Lee Johnson  
The Kent Family  
Daisy Klein  
Jeff & Prescilla Langdon  
Sam & Ester Leadley  
Tami & Pete Loftus  
Shannon Lyaski  
Glenn Merrill  
Bill & Connie Moon  
Terri & Michael Muehlig  
Paul and Emma Osborn  
Kathy Owen  
Kathleen Purcel  
Josh Roman  
Sandra Ruffino  
Jim Schmitt  
Steve Scott  
Clare & Ron Sloat

George Squires  
Pete Stanbridge  
Dave & Sandy Steele  
Jim Tallie  
Lewis & Bonnie Tandy  
The Vandembosch Family  
The Wagner Family  
Kathie Woika  
Nick Zinni  
Pam Zola

\*If your name is not on this list, it is time to renew your membership! To renew or become a member, please contact Bill Denson, ACORNS Membership Specialist at [wdenson@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wdenson@rochester.rr.com).\*

ACORNS meetings are held every 4th Tuesday evening of the month. Check website for location.

ACORNS website:

[www.geneseecorn.org/](http://www.geneseecorn.org/)

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.



## HEY AMAZON SHOPPERS!!!

By using AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Association for the Conservation Of Recreational and National Spaces (ACORNS), when you follow this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-8939341>



## RUN FOR THE ACORNS 2019

Sunday, October 6th

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

<https://runfortheacorns.shutterfly.com>





# Run for the ACORNS!



The sixth annual "Run for the ACORNS" 10K and 5K Trail Run/Walk was bigger than ever this year! The morning began dewy and chilly, but cleared up so that the 232 participants completed the run and walk in great fall conditions. The course winds through the park on trails which feature hills, ponds, forests and Black Creek. A dozen environmental education signs tell runners and walkers about some noteworthy natural park features, created by park volunteer Lee Johnson.

Runners received race bags with tons of coupons and some snacks inside. Kids under 10 had a blast filling their race bags with prizes and showing off their race ribbons after the Kids Fun Run!

The post-race awards ceremony was sponsored by Brothers All Natural. Top race sponsors include Akima, Tompkins Bank of Castile, and Carquest of Batavia. Race participants and fans enjoyed refreshments such as yogurt, bananas, apples, Tim Horton's coffee, fresh apple juice from Red Jacket Orchards, and nut butters from Once Again Nut Butter by a warm fire in Pavilion B.

We thank our runners, walkers, volunteers, sponsors, and all who contributed for their hard work in making this event such a success!!!



ACORNS members Kathy Purcell and Mary Ann Gately

## Winner's Circle

### 10K

**Age Groups** (*Winners listed male, female*):

**1st Place:** Chad Minuto, Kimberly Mills

**2nd Place:** Kenneth Plossl, Rene Hoover

**15-19:** Rodney Egli

**20-29:** Jason Harasimowicz, Jessica Juliano

**30-39:** Michael Harasimowicz, Jill Patric

**40-49:** James Caswell, Kelly Roberts

**50-59:** Adam Douglas, Carol Vanderberg

**60-69:** Terry Sweeney, Janice Spiotta

### 5K

**Age Groups** (*Winners listed male, female*):

**1st Place:** Mike Miller, Emma Jones

**2nd Place:** Jacob Seppe-Shultz, Steph Parmenter

**14 and under:** Elijah Abdella, Ainsley Kent

**15-19:** Alex Harper, Kathleen Nolan

**20-29:** Thomas Demmer, Julianna Parmenter

**30-39:** Kevin Andrews, Jessica Beal

**40-49:** Jason Smith, Michelle Abdella

**50-59:** David Demmer, Wendy Marcheze

**60-69:** Lin Jursted, Mary Young-Murray



# ACORNS Outdoor Learning Center



This Summer brought full bloom to the ACORNS OLC! The pollinator garden planted by Girl Scout Troop 42214 of Elba sprouted into a burst of color. A multitude of wildflowers greets beneficial pollinators, black-eyed susans, bachelor's buttons, sweet William, and marigolds. Thank you to Troop 42214 for providing this beautiful habitat in the OLC!



New pollinator garden in bloom



Thank you Batavia HS Seniors!

**Before**

**After**

Batavia High School seniors gave big on "Make a Difference Day"! A crew of 12 students eliminated weeds and dead plants and spread mulch at the Interpretive Nature Center landscaping and the OLC. See before and after pictures of their great work!

The ACORNS kept up with landscaping and garden maintenance during work days over the summer and fall. The SUNY Geneseo chapter of Friends Of Recreation, Conservation and Environmental Stewardship (FORCES) joined us in finishing the last round of mulching work in the OLC landscape on November 10th. It was the first day of wintery weather this fall, but that didn't stop them from getting work done and having a blast doing it! Thanks to all who volunteered and worked on making the ACORNS OLC more beautiful and functional this year!



SUNY Geneseo FORCES  
brave the snow to volunteer



First snowball fight of the season!

## FeederWatch in the ACORNS OLC

The ACORNS OLC at Genesee County Park & Forest is an official FeederWatch monitoring station. FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds visiting feeders in backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other designated areas all over North America. Data recorded by volunteers helps scientists track the movement of winter bird populations and long-term trends of bird distribution. The best part about FeederWatch is that people of all skill levels can participate. Not sure you could do it?! Fear not bird lovers!! FeederWatch training and bird ID guides are provided. Observation points are located in the Wildlife Observation Area of the OLC and inside the Interpretive Nature Center Discovery Zone. Enjoy some time outdoors or come inside to watch birds without freezing your tail feathers off!!

Volunteers are invited to join in, and FeederWatch is a great service-learning science education opportunity for scouts, students, and people of all ages! Call 585-344-1122 to sign up for [FeederWatch](#)!





# Park Updates

## Genesee County Park & Forest Trail Improvements

This year we have made some major improvements on several trails within the Genesee County Park & Forest. With the new construction of the boardwalks on Conservation Trail during the HH Camp in August, we continued along, connecting the Forestry Trail section to Death Row Trail. The Forestry Trail was improved through grading, mulch installation and drainage. The biggest improvement was through drainage along a very wet section of the trail. Drainage piping was installed across the trail with field stone along the edges which was then filled with gravel thus raising the trail and providing proper drainage during various weather events. This section of the Forestry Trail provides a continuous connection from Area A pavilion, through the old Touch & See section of Wildlife Trail, onto the new Conservation Trail boardwalks, and thus leading to the Death Row Trail to the Old County Home memorial cemetery. Trail improvements have also taken place on the Wetland Trail leading to the 4-Acre Wetland and along the Conservation Trail near Area D pavilion leading to the Plantation Trail and newly constructed bridge during Hard Hat Camp in 2017. More trail improvements will come to the B-D Connector, Conservation and Forestry Trails in 2019.

## DeWitt Recreation Area Improvements

A new seating area was created along the recently re-aligned Lakeside trail. This seating area is located just off the Boat Launch area and provides improved access to the lake. This spot has always been popular for those fishing along the shore. Unfortunately, over the last few years this area has been degraded due to washouts and shoreline erosion. Park Staff created tiered retaining walls and regarded the seating area so it would be accessible for everyone to enjoy the cool summer breeze. A concrete pad was then poured and a new bench installed. Recently the bench was chosen as a perfect location to memorialize Gerald "Jerry" Sodja. Jerry was an avid fisherman and visited the DeWitt Recreation Area almost on a daily basis. One could often see him riding his bike down Main St., Batavia a pole in hand and tackle box in the basket. Always with a pleasant smile and joyous laugh! May his memory and spirit live on in the waters of the DeWitt Lake.

If anyone is interested in memorializing a friend or family member through a bench or tree memorial, contact the Parks Supervisor @ (585)344-8508 or via email at [coparks@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:coparks@co.genesee.ny.us).

## Upcoming Programs

### Create-a-Critter!

Saturday December 1st, 2018

Session 1: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Session 2: 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Let your imagination run wild!



With a touch of creativity and hot glue, you can turn pine cones, sticks, and other natural materials into your own unique creation!

Enjoy some quiet time and laughs with your favorite people. Your critter can even be a perfect gift for your loved ones!

\$5/person, \$10/family

Please pre-register by calling 585-344-1122!

Like us on Facebook at: [Genesee County Parks, Recreation & Forestry](https://www.facebook.com/GeneseeCountyParksRecreationForestry/)



Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center - 11095 Bethany Center Road East Bethany, NY 14054 (585) 344-1122 - [www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/](http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/)



## 2019 First Day Hike

It's FREE!

Genesee County Park & Forest  
Interpretive Nature Center  
Meet at 1:00 pm

Call to Register 585-344-1122



Like us on Facebook at: [Genesee County Parks, Recreation & Forestry](https://www.facebook.com/GeneseeCountyParksRecreationForestry/)

Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center - 11095 Bethany Center Road East Bethany, NY 14054

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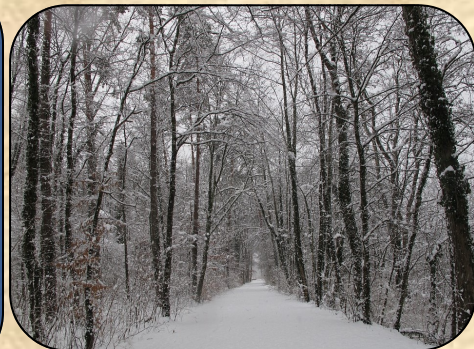
# WINTER OUTDOOR FUN 2019

## Moonlight Snowshoe Hike and Winter Walk

Enjoy the tranquil beauty of the forest by moonlight on a trek through meadows, along creeks, and into woodlands. Hike will go snow, rain or shine. Meet at Pavilion B. Snowshoes may be used, weather permitting, and are provided or you may bring your own. No previous experience needed, snowshoeing lesson included! Hike concludes with refreshments by a warm fire in Pavilion B. Ages 18 and over. \$5/person, max \$15/family, snowshoe rental included. Pre-registration is required, call 585-344-1122!

**Saturday, January 19th and Saturday, February 16th**

**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**



## Winter Wonderland Hikes

### Winter Wonderland Hikes

**Saturdays 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

#### Animal Tracks & Signs

**Saturday, January 19th**

Hike and explore the wonders of the forest in winter and track the secret lives of wild animals!

#### Winged Wildlife

**Saturday, February 16th**

Hike and discover the brave birds that spend their winters in Western New York!

Snowshoes may be used, weather permitting.

Snowshoes will be provided or you may bring your own.

No previous experience needed!

\$5/person, max \$15/family, snowshoe rental included

Please pre-register by calling 585-344-1122!



### Private Group Snowshoe Hikes

Make a memory this winter with your own guided snowshoe hike!

Private Naturalist-led hikes are available for your group by reservation on Saturdays in January and February 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Snowshoes are provided or you may bring your own.

No experience needed.

Snowshoeing lesson included!

\$5/person, \$75 minimum group fee.  
Snowshoe rental included.

Pre-register by calling 585-344-1122!

## Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring

**Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm**

Come discover NestWatch - a nationwide nest monitoring program that helps scientists track bird populations. Find out how to participate and all the things you can do to keep baby bluebirds happy and healthy. Dress for the weather, you will help prepare nest boxes for nesting season 2019!

**This program is FREE!**



Programs take place at the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center, 11095 Bethany Center Rd, East Bethany, NY 14054 unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is required for all programs. To register call (585) 344-1122. For more information visit our website at <http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/>, or contact Shannon Lyaski at [Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us) or (585) 344-1122.





# SNOWSHOE RENTALS



Snowshoes are available to rent at  
**Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center** through  
the months of December, January, February and March,  
weather permitting. Rentals are available on a first come first serve  
basis and must be used in the Park.

## Hours:

10 am — 3 pm Thursdays and Fridays  
12 pm — 3 pm Saturdays and Sundays  
(Snowshoes must be returned to building by 3pm)  
Interpretive Nature Center will be closed December 25th  
and January 1st.

**Rental:** \$5/pair, driver's license must be left at Nature Center while snowshoes are in use.

*Snowshoes provided by ACORNS, the Association for the Conservation of Recreational and Natural Spaces*

For more information call 585-344-1122  
or check out our facebook page!



Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center  
11095 Bethany Center Rd.  
E. Bethany, NY 14054

<http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/eventsprograms.html>



## DeWitt Recreation Area Ice Rink

### Get Your Skates Ready!!

The DeWitt Recreation Area skating rink will be up again for your enjoyment this winter season. Use of the rink is FREE and available at posted times. The outdoor rink is skate at your own risk and bring your own skates.



### Public Skate:

(sticks and pucks are prohibited on the ice)

M, W, Sa, Sun. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tu, Th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fri. 10:00 am - 7:30 pm

### Stick & Puck:

Tu, Th 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (No Figure skating)



**Cedar Street  
Sales & Rentals**

*We promise a lot... and give you more!*

There will be extended hours with lighting available on Friday evenings. This opportunity is being provided by the Kiwanis Club of Batavia. See the parks website for full rules and details, and follow us on Facebook for up-to-date rink information and closings  
<https://www.facebook.com/Genesee-County-Parks-Recreation-Forestry-5144840306572/>.



# Park Events 2019

## First Day Hike

Tuesday January 1<sup>st</sup> 1:00 pm

Welcome the first day of 2019 with a hike through the forest! Take in the beauty of nature, get great exercise and enjoy snacks by a warm fire. This program is FREE!!

## Winter Wonderland Hikes

**Animal Tracks & Signs:** Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

\*Rain Date: Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

**Winged Wildlife:** Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

\*Rain Date: Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Discover the secret world of wildlife on the trail with a Naturalist Guide! Hikes will go snow, rain or shine. Hikes begin at the Interpretive Nature Center. Snowshoes may be used, weather permitting, and are provided or bring your own. No previous snowshoe experience needed! Recommended for ages 3 and up! \$5/person, max \$15/family.

## Moonlight Snowshoe Hike and Winter Fun Walks

**First Hike:** Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

\*Rain Date: Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

**Second Hike:** Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

\*Rain Date: Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Enjoy the quiet beauty of the forest by moonlight! Hikes will go - snow, rain or clear skies. Hikes begin and end at Pavilion B, located on Raymond Road. Snowshoes may be used, weather permitting, and are provided or bring your own. No previous snowshoe experience needed! The night concludes with refreshments by a warm fire at Pavilion B! For ages 18 and over. \$5/person, max \$15/family.

## Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring

Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Come discover NestWatch - a nationwide nest monitoring program that helps scientists track bird populations. Find out how to participate and all the things you can do to keep baby bluebirds happy and healthy. Dress for the weather, you will help prepare nest boxes for nesting season 2019! This program is FREE!!

## Guided Dog Walks

Saturdays April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup>, and July 13<sup>th</sup>  
from 10:00 am-11:00 am

Bring your best friend and join us for a guided dog walk at the park! This guided walk is great for socialization and healthy exercise! Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Current license or proof of rabies vaccination required. Aggressive dogs will not be allowed to participate. \$5/dog.

## Amphibian Adventure

Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm-9:00 pm

Come get to know your small, slimy, singing neighbors and pest-eating pals. Hear the chorus of spring and learn about amphibians, search for them, and discover how to help them. We will head into the wetlands and woodlands on a night hike to visit them in their habitat! Dress for the weather, rain or shine! \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Earth Day Full Moon Hike

Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm-9:00 pm

Celebrate Earth Day with a night hike through the forest!! Explore the forest on a full moon night and visit animal habitats, hear seasonal folklore and experience the beauty of spring. Find out why April is called the Full Fish Moon and other names to mark this magical season. \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Earth Day Celebration at DeWitt Recreation Area

Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Give back and help clean up DeWitt Recreation Area to keep the habitat safe for wild animals. Learn to make cool stuff from recycled materials. Enjoy playing wild games and taking a naturalist-guided hike to see where animals live! Discover what you can do every day to make your world healthier. Scouts can earn badge requirements and service hours! Celebration is FREE and open to the public!

## Pond Discovery

Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Dive into some wild creature encounters! Find this year's young amphibians and other tiny creatures and get to know them up close and personal. Be prepared to get muddy and wet! You will be using a net and sharing a bucket of water to catch animals and learning about them from a Naturalist guide. \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Full Moon Owl Prowl

Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm-9:00 pm

Explore the secret world of owls on a full moon night. Listen for the sounds of nocturnal wildlife, hear full moon folklore and visit owl habitats. Anything can happen on an owl prow! Recommended for ages 4 and up.

## Free Fishing Day & the Kendra Haacke Memorial Fishing Derby

at DeWitt Recreation Area

In partnership with the Oakfield-Alabama Lions Club

Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Join the Genesee County Parks along with the Oakfield-Alabama Lions Club and try out fishing! Perfect for beginners! Program meets at Pavilion 3. Friendly guides will be on hand to assist you. No fishing license required. This is part of NYSDEC's Free Fishing Weekend! Fishing gear provided or bring your own. Kids up to age 16 can join the fun and get the chance to win a prize with the Kendra Haacke Memorial Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Oakfield-Alabama Lions Club! This program is FREE!!

## Kayaking at DeWitt Recreation Area

Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> **Session 1:** 10:00 am-12:00 pm

**Session 2:** 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Seize the day with a guided kayak tour of DeWitt Lake! Explore the lake by water and discover a new world. Meet at the boat launch at DeWitt Recreation Area. No experience needed, lesson provided! Rent a kayak or bring your own. Kayak rentals with life vests are provided by **Adventures in Fitness Inc.** Solo kayak rentals are available for ages 12 and up, tandem kayak rentals are available for kids under 12 and must be piloted by an adult. Guided tour fee is \$20/person w/o rental, \$25/person w/ rental, \$12/session for children 12 and under.

## Environmental Science Camp

Monday-Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am-4:00 pm daily

Thinking of a career in Environmental Science? This camp is for students entering 7th - 12th grade. Campers explore 10 different careers in Environmental Science with outdoor activities guided by professionals. This weeklong adventure includes wildlife surveys, wading through wetlands and streams, a field trip, and more. All materials, lunch and snacks are provided each day along with a camp T-shirt. Fee TBA. Download registration form at <http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/eventsprograms.html>

## Camp Hard Hat

July 29th - August 2nd 8:30 am- 3:30 pm daily.

Campers will have 1 optional overnight during the week.

Learn about careers in construction and build a community project! Instructed by certified teachers and GVEP Building Trades instructors. \$95/Camper- Includes a hard hat and camp t-shirt! Scholarships are available. Open to students entering grades 8-10.

## Night Sky Tour and Stargazing

Friday August 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 pm-11:00 pm

Enjoy the view of a dark night sky at the Genesee County Park & Forest! Learn all about the Perseid Meteor Shower and other astronomical phenomena. Includes an indoor presentation and an outdoor guided tour of the celestial bodies in the summer night sky. \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Watching Monarchs

Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Capture the last few days of summer with a visit to a butterfly meadow and a journey into their world! See how butterflies are tagged and released as part of a nation-wide Monarch Butterfly conservation project. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Kids explore the meadow with nets and bug catchers. \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Geocaching at DeWitt Recreation Area

Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Get out and try a high-tech scavenger hunt! Geocaching is a worldwide treasure hunt game that can be played anytime, anywhere. Create a personal alias or team name to let others know you where here. Sign up as a group or by yourself! No prior geocaching experience is necessary, lesson and GPS unit is provided. Dress for the weather and be ready for adventure! Meet at Pavilion 2 at DeWitt Recreation Area. \$5/person, \$10/family.

**Programs take place at the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center, 11095 Bethany Center Rd, East Bethany, NY 14054 unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is required for all programs. To register call (585) 344-1122. For more information visit our website at <http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/>, or contact the Conservation Education Program Coordinator at [Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us) or (585) 344-1122.**



## 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/](http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/)

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Recreation & Forestry

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