



Seedlings

Volume 5, Issue 3

Riding the Last Heat Waves of Summer Into Fall

The Grand Opening of the newly rebuilt Pavilion D on Saturday, August 24th was a blast! Many thanks to the ACORNS for hosting a fun, hot-dog heavy shindig to celebrate the amazing work done on Pavilion D by Genesee County Facilities, Highway and Parks staff. Many thanks to the ACORNS volunteers who came and assisted staff as well! Kudos to all involved!!!



Pavilion D before...



And after!!!

Pavilion D has been reconstructed as such the footprint is larger and more accessible due to the higher demand for a larger space to accommodate events such as weddings, family gatherings, and company picnics. It is now 40x60 in size and can sit down 180 people at all the picnic tables. All other amenities are still there, including water, electric, grills, bathrooms, K-5 and 5-12 playgrounds, horseshoe pits, and volley ball court. The pavilion was a tremendous undertaking and could not have happened without all staff, volunteers, and Genesee County Legislature support! The park has sure had a busy season! School programs, summer recreation, kayaking, fishing, new pavilions, new walkways, the list goes on and on! A huge thank you to Camp Hard Hat for the new wetland observation platform over on the Wildlife Trail. Continue reading for more information on Camp Hard Hat and all of the other totally awesome events here at the Genesee County Park & Forest!

Our last park update for summer 2019: We are pleased to announce that Shannon Lyaski, our Conservation Education Program Coordinator, and her husband Matt had a baby boy last month! Daniel Matthew Lyaski was born at 5:34 am on Tuesday July 30th. He weighed in at 7 pounds 4 ounces and measured 19.25 inches long. Shannon and Matt are enjoying their time at home with their new son. Their favorite thing to do with him is take him outside! Shannon will return from maternity leave on October 23rd. Congratulations on their new addition to the family!



Shannon, Matt, and Dan Lyaski



In This Issue

Park Updates	2
Environmental Education	3
Assistant Internship Review	
The Who's Who of the Owl World	4
Internship, Volunteer, and Scout Opportunities	5
GCP&F Camps	6
Free Fishing Day and Kendra Haacke Memorial Derby	7
Kayaking at DeWitt Recreation Area	8
ACORNS Adventures	9
Meet the ACORNS	10
ACORNS OLC Updates	11
Upcoming Events	12
September Events Flyers	13
Run for the ACORNS Flyer	14
Run for the ACORNS Registration	15
Like us on Facebook	16

Interpretive Nature Center Hours October—May:

Thursday—Friday:
10 am—4 pm

Saturday—Sunday:
12—4 pm



Summer 2019



Kayakers at DeWitt Recreation Area listen to ACORNS member George Squires talk about the park



Families see what they can catch at Free Fishing Day and Kendra Haacke Memorial Fishing Derby at DeWitt Recreation Area



Leroy 1st Graders explore the Sensory Garden in the OLC



Environmental Science campers work together to start a fire



Camp Hard Hat campers work together to create a concrete pad for a new bench which was dedicated to the Tambe family of Tambe Electric.



A White Admiral butterfly found during a school program dries its wings after recently emerging from its chrysalis.

Kayla Edmunds-Environmental Education

Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator Internship Review

My favorite memories from this summer are ones from when I was watching the people at our programs; students, adults, young and old, so thoroughly enjoy what they were doing. Programs such as the Owl Prowl, when 60 people were able to be dead silent and absolutely enthralled listening and looking at a barred owl overhead for over 20 minutes. When families got so into dip netting and catching critters in Turtle Pond that they fell into the water. Third graders who sprinted back and forth in the Outdoor Learning Center, never slowing as they tried to collect all of the geocaches, dragging their tired chaperones behind them. Fifth graders sprinting around the front lawn, trying to eat as much "wheat" as they could without being eaten by "predators", and then be able to make the connections between biomagnification and the game of tag they just played. Seeing people have so much fun learning was definitely a big *WOW* moment for me this summer, and I'm so thankful that I've had the opportunity to be a part of those moments and so many more.



One week in and already leading 60 people through an Owl Prowl!! We were lucky enough to hear and see owls!

With over 1,500 students from 39 programs not only have I been able to be a facilitator and a part of the learning and new experiences of others, but I've learned and experienced more myself than I could have imagined. I can honestly say geocaching has become a newfound passion of mine after teaching it to hundreds of students, I learned how to properly dip-net in a pond and what a caddisfly is, and I've learned (maybe most importantly) how to take care of the one and only Ruby, our red-eared slider. Those are, of course, just a few skills that I've learned over the course of the past 4 months. If I really went into detail this whole newsletter would be about this internship, which would be a bit excessive. But I haven't done this on my own, not by a long shot. Without the people who dedicate so much of their time, knowledge, and heart to the park, I honestly don't know what I would have done.

First off, many thanks to Paul Osborn, Deputy Superintendent, who answered all of my questions and gave me the encouragement I needed throughout the end of July and August. Additionally, the ACORNS organization and the amazing volunteer base they provide has been the most supportive group of people I've ever worked with. All of the plants and birds they've identified while on walks with me that I couldn't remember have created a curiosity and a desire to become so much more educated in the natural world. By far this internship would not have been so great without the incredible mentorship and guidance from our Environmental Education Coordinator, Shannon Lyaski. If you're looking for an incredibly knowledgeable, patient, passionate, and all around awesome boss, intern at the Genesee County Park & Forest. Thank you all.



Kayaking on the Buffalo River during the ACORNS volunteer outing!

But enough about me! Continue reading for some more cool facts about owls, our summer camps, past and upcoming events, and details on what's new at the County Park!

The Who's-Who of the Owl World

One of my favorite programs that I led while I was here was the Owl Prowl which took place in early May. Don't worry if you missed it, there's another one coming up in October! While prowling, we were lucky enough to spot a barred owl and hear it call! After watching it fly from tree to tree above us and hearing it call, we reluctantly returned to the Nature Center, only to be greeted by a gorgeous full moon. It was a beautiful night, and with 60 people in attendance we were lucky to see the barred owl.

Barred owls, named due to the barred coloring on their bodies are year-round native residents to the Eastern US, including the entire state of New York! This coloration makes them very well camouflaged and hard to spot, we were lucky to see the one sitting in the tree. Barred owls are very vocal owls, and will converse with other owls. They are most often found under dense evergreen cover, high up in a tree, and close to a trunk that is at least as wide as their bodies.

What other owls do we have in Western NY, and how do they live their lives? What issues do they face?

One of the most recognizable is the Great Horned Owl, named due to large ear tufts on its head, giving it a "horned" look. Thanks to their specially edged feathers their flight is nearly silent, which makes them formidable hunters. Their call is loud and easily discernible, three to six hoots. They are also distinguishable due to their yellow-orange eyes.

One of the neatest things about owls is their process of digestion, and the production of pellets. Pellets are the indigestible food stuffs that result from the fact that owls swallow their prey whole. After digesting what they can, animal parts such as the bones and fur are regurgitated in pellet forms.

From these pellets you can tell what an owl has eaten recently! While Great-Horned owls do not have natural predators, undefended nestlings or

eggs may be eaten by other birds of prey, crows, ravens, raccoons, foxes, or coyotes. Great horned owls dine on small mammals like mice, rabbits, squirrels, and skunks, and sometimes other, small owls!! It's a ferocious world out there.

One other owl that may fall prey to the Great Horned Owl due to its small size is the Eastern Screech Owl. Like the Great Horned Owl, it has pointed ear tufts which gives it a distinctive look. Unlike the Great Horned Owl, the Eastern Screech is only between 6 and 9 inches tall, one-third the height and more than one-eighth the weight of an average Great Horned Owl. It should come as no surprise that they the screech owl falls prey to the horned one.

Eastern Screech Owls are very active and much more often heard by their trilling or whinnying song than seen. It makes its home in trees, and can't be found in treeless areas. Within these tree cavities it is superbly camouflaged thanks to its patterned coloring.

One other incredibly distinctive and cool New York native owl is the Barn Owl (not to be confused with the barred owl). The feature that makes this owl so recognizable is its clear white, heart shaped facial disk. They can be heard making eerie, rasping calls, which are quite unique from other owls. They are nearly exclusively nocturnal, and although they have great night vision, they have even more impressive hearing. They get their name from the fact that they often like to nest in barns, cavities, and dense trees.

These are just a few of the owls that can be found here in Western New York. If you're interested in taking a chance at spotting or hearing them in their natural habitat, come to our fall Full Moon Owl Prowl on Saturday, October 12th. It's sure to be an absolute hoot!!

Resources:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/59286.html>

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds. Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Barn Owl.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>



Barred owl spotted during an evening Owl Prowl at Genesee County Park & Forest in May. (Photo: Laura Killian)



Eastern Screech Owl



Barn Owl (Photo: Eric Kilby)

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. For more information call the RSVP Volunteer Placement Program at 585-343-1611 or visit the RSVP of Genesee County website

https://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/office_for_the_aging/volunteer_opportunities.php

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.

Summer Camps at Genesee County Park & Forest!



Environmental Science Campers last day of camp.



Camp Hard Hat Campers pose for a photo on their finished project, a walkway over the wetland on the Wildlife Trail.

Summer 2019 marked our third successful year of **Environmental Science Career Exploration Camp**, with 15 students gaining knowledge and skills in a plethora of different environmental science career fields. This included Bird Surveying, Herpetology, Wildlife Studies, Outdoor Recreation, Water Treatment, Beekeeping, Dairy Farming, Environmental Conservation Law Enforcement, Nature Photography, Aquatic Habitat Studies, Forestry, Survival Skills, Wildlife and Invasive Species Management, Forest Ranger duties, and Environmental Education. Huge thanks go out to Paul Hess of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Brad Mudzynski and Alex of the Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District, Kevin Volk of Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, Brent Tillotson of Grassland Dairy, ENCON Officer Fay Fuerch and Shawn Dussault with K9's Handley and Ski, and Officer Rick, Bill Moon of ACORNS, Molly Cassatt of the Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District, Fisherman Mark Elliott, Forester John Eisenhard, Forester Gary Koplun and Joe Magee of NYSDEC, Michael Adriaansen of Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Lewis and Bonnie Tandy of the ACORNS, Brittany Hernon of WNY Prism, and Erie County Park Ranger Chuck Bartlett, for sharing their time, knowledge, and expertise. Many thanks to Red Osier, Alex's Place, Batavia's Original Pizzeria, Big Pauly's Pizza, T.F. Brown's Restaurant, and Walmart of Batavia for keeping us fed everyday with delicious lunches and snacks.

Fifteen more students entering the 8th, 9th,

and 10th grades joined us at the end of July for the 6th summer of **Camp Hard Hat** at Genesee County Park & Forest. Using math, process thinking skills, power tools, safety equipment, and the power of teamwork to build a wetland observation platform and park benches at Area A at the Genesee County Park & Forest. Camp Hard Hat is a special partnership between Genesee County Park & Forest, the Genesee County Business/Education Alliance, and GVEP Building Trades Program. Working as a team led by GVEP Building Trades instructors Rich Monroe and Jared Radesi, Camp Hard Hat promotes skilled trade careers and teaches local youth the value of learning to build a community project with their hands. In addition to learning the principles of design, construction, and safety, campers also learned more about different skilled trade careers from guest speakers and industry leaders like Dustin Beardsley of Rochester Davis-Fetch Corporation, Dean Robb from Robb's Glass, Inc., and Kelli Sandow from Tambe Electric. The Genesee County Park & Forest provides nature activities for Camp Hard Hat students so that they can also learn and appreciate what the park has to offer. There was a ceremony which included a park bench dedication to the Tambe Family, owners of Tambe Electric, for their dedication and support since Camp Hard Hat began in 2014. Thanks to all the volunteers, staff and sponsors who made this camp possible!! To learn more about the Camp Hard Hat 2019 project visit <https://www.thebatavian.com/howard-b-owens/video-dedication-of-sixth-camp-hard-hat-project-in-genesee-county-park/540925> and <https://www.thedailynewsonline.com/bdn01/hard-hat-students-work-pays-off-at-park-amp-forest-20190803>



Wetland walkway before...



And after!! Wow!!

Free Fishing Day and the Kendra Haacke Memorial Fishing Derby at DeWitt Recreation Area—A “Reel” Great Time!

A great time was had by all at the Free Fishing Day and the sixth annual Kendra Haacke Memorial Fishing Derby at DeWitt Recreation Area. On June 29th 45 children ages 16 and under joined Genesee County Park & Forest volunteers and the Oakfield-Alabama Lions Club to try their hand at catching the biggest fish! This event was part of New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation’s Free Fishing Weekend, when no fishing license is required to take part in and enjoy the sport.

Families from Genesee, Monroe, Wyoming, and Erie counties traveled to Batavia to catch fish such as brown trout, pike, bass, perch, and bluegill.

Prizes were awarded for the largest fish caught each by a boy and a girl. All participants had the chance to win fishing tackle door prizes, and each of the category winners went home with a new rod and reel provided through a grant by Cabela’s of Cheektowaga.

Each year the derby is sponsored and organized by the Oakfield-Alabama Lions Club. This year’s derby was made possible through a partnership between Oakfield-Alabama Lions Club, the Genesee County Park & Forest, the ACORNS, Cabela’s, and Walmart. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, energy, equipment, and knowledge to help make this event possible and ensuring it was an enjoyable experience for everybody who participated!



Pictured are Luke Volkmar from Bergen and Michael Atkinson from Alexander, who tied in the Boys category with an 8 1/2” bass catch each. Not picture, Julia Plath from Batavia her won the Girl category with an 8” bass catch.



Families see what they can pull out of the lake. Bass, brown trout (500 stocked annually by the DEC), carp, pike, bluegill, and perch were all on the table.



Caught one!!

Kayaking at

Dewitt Recreation Area



19 participants joined us at DeWitt Recreation Area on Saturday, August 10th for some fun paddling out in the sun! After a brief instructional on what to do (and what NOT to do) in a kayak, everyone got their kayak, paddle, and most importantly a life jacket for the outing. Once all of the boats were in the water, a tour of DeWitt Lake was given by ACORNS member George Squires. A complete history of DeWitt's beginnings as a gravel quarry was detailed throughout the kayak tour, and how the park came to be what it is today. The 68 acre park, that includes a 38 acre lake with an island make a great local spot for kayaking, complete with flourishing aquatic plant and animal life. The sky was mostly clear, the temperatures were mild, the birds were flitting around, and the turtles were out sunning themselves. We couldn't have had a more beautiful day!! **Special thanks to Tim Reed of Adventures in Fitness Inc.** for donating his time, instruction, and use of kayaks for this program! We couldn't have done it without him.



Kayakers gathering in to hear some history of DeWitt Recreation Area from ACORNS member George Squires. We couldn't have had better weather!!



Tim explaining how to properly sit in a kayak, and what ways not to move in said kayak.



Now that's some skilled tandem kayaking!!

ACORNS Adventures

Kayaking Outing

Tim Reed of Adventures in Fitness lead the ACORNS on a fantastically fun kayaking trip down the Buffalo River with history of the area included! It was another beautiful day for kayaking, with the sun shining, a sky clear of clouds, and fairly calm waters. The Buffalo River sure was busy though, which we noticed while maneuvering around other kayakers, water bikes, pedal boats, floating tiki bars, and motorboats. Special thanks again to Tim Reed for giving the ACORNS such a great tour and history of the Buffalo River! If you're looking for a great guided trip, visit <https://www.adventuresinfitnessinc.com/> to plan one today!



ACORNS members at the Mutual Riverfront Park after a kayak trip and tour down and back up the Buffalo River.

Eternal Flame Falls

The first ACORNS adventure of the summer was supposed to be kayaking, but due to high winds we decided to stay off of the water. Instead, we took a jaunt on over to one of the biggest county parks in New York State, Chestnut Ridge County Park, located in Orchard Park. Located within Chestnut Ridge Park is an incredible natural feature known as the Eternal Flame Falls. Sunken into the shale which the waterfall



ACORNS members at the Eternal Flame Falls in Chestnut Ridge Park. You can see the flame flickering in the background!

cascades over there is a small alcove, within which, is a small amount of natural gas being emitted. This natural gas can then be lit to produce an "eternal" flame (although it sometimes need to be re-lit). After the hike a nice lunch was enjoyed inside the main lodge, as well as an enlightening conversation with an Erie County Forest Ranger. If any of these adventures sound like something you'd be interested in, know that it's never too late to become part of the ACORNS. Become a member and join us in the fun! For more information visit <https://www.geneseecacorns.org/>

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
Sam Leadley
Bill Moon
Lewis Tandy
Pete Stanbridge
Jeff Langdon

Members:

The Allen Family
Charlie Augrom
Bruce and Nancy Baker
Sarah Balduf
Tom & Linda Clark
Guy & Patricia Clark, Jr.
Bart & Sue Dambra
Barb & Mike Easton
Kayla Edmunds
Marjorie & Jim Fulmer
Dave & Marcia Gann
Julia Garver & Joe Ruh
The Gentry Family
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Craig & Amy Hardie
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Claire & Ron Sloat
George Squires
Pete Stanbridge
Dave & Sandy Steele
Jim Taillie
Lewis & Bonnie Tandy

The Vandembosch 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 visit

<https://www.geneseecorns.org/membership.html> or contact Lewis Tandy, ACORNS Membership Specialist at ltandy@rochester.rr.com.*

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

ACORNS website:

www.geneseecorns.org/

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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>

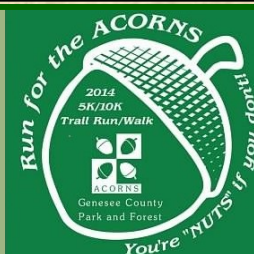


RUN FOR THE ACORNS 2019

Sunday, October 6th

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

<https://www.geneseecorns.org/>



ACORNS Outdoor Learning Center



The goldenrod is beginning to bloom, the Discovery Trail is freshly mowed, and monarch butterflies are flitting around just in time for our Watching Monarchs program. This summer the ACORNS Outdoor Learning Center received some tender loving care from our volunteers, but as with all gardens and outdoor spaces there is still more to do! The ACORNS OLC is a group project created and maintained by the ACORNS,



and it takes lots of volunteers to make it the beautiful place that it has become! We would love to have you join us in the fun! Email Shannon Lyaski at shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us to find out how to spend some time outdoors helping out! Coming up on October 12th we have an Outdoor Learning Center workday, and we would love to see you here! Come get your hands dirty and help us prepare the OLC for winter, so that when spring rolls around next year the flowers will be ready to bloom again.

If you are part of a group that would like to take part in maintaining the Outdoor Learning Center, please contact Shannon Lyaski at shannon.lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us. Volunteer work is an essential part of park stewardship, both development and improvements. We have hosted many groups, from SUNY Geneseo Forces, high school groups throughout the county, Rotary clubs, Scout groups, and so many more. We'd love to have your group here next!

Project Feederwatch

FREE Public Program - Saturday November 9th—1:30—3:00pm: Join us for a FREE program that's all about birds! Feeding the birds is fun!! Learn about Project Feederwatch and how you can participate and beat the winter blues. Discover how you can help scientists track the movement and number of birds during winter by participating in Project Feederwatch—a nationwide bird population monitoring program. Find out what birds love to eat in winter and which birds might visit your backyard! For more information on Project Feederwatch go to <https://feederwatch.org/>
This program is free!!

The ACORNS OLC at Genesee County Park & Forest is an official FeederWatch monitoring station! FeederWatch is a survey which lasts through the winter, and utilizes volunteers and citizen scientists in helping scientists track bird populations as they move through the country. And don't worry, we provide FeederWatch training and bird ID guides.

FeederWatch is a great service-learning science education opportunity for scouts, students, and people of all ages! Sign up today by calling 585-344-8508!



Upcoming Events

Watching Monarchs

Saturday September 7th 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.

Orienteering with Rochester Orienteering Club

Saturday September 14th 9:00 am–1:30 pm
Come explore the active and adventurous sport of Orienteering at the Genesee County Park & Forest! Learn how to find your way without batteries or a cell phone signal, by using a map and compass! All materials provided, no experience necessary! Beginner class and basic training takes place from 9:00 am–10:00 am. Orienteering start is open 10:00 am–12:00 pm. All courses close at 1:30 pm. Perfect for individuals and families who love the outdoors! This program is FREE!

Harvest Moon Night Hike

Saturday September 14th 7:30–9:00 pm
Come join us on a night hike through a moonlit forest, looking and listening for nocturnal animals! Hear tales of the full moon that comes at the beginning of fall, and learn where it got its name from! \$5/person, \$10/family.

Geocaching at DeWitt Recreation Area

Saturday September 21st 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 were 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.

Wild Turkeys with the National Wild Turkey Federation and Women in the Outdoors

Saturday September 28th 1:00–3:00pm
Did you know that wild turkeys can swim? Or that they can fly 55 miles per hour? Join the National Wild Turkey Federation and Women in the Outdoors for "Wild Turkeys" to learn more cool facts and find out how they survive in the wild! Then head out to the forest and fields to practice turkey calls and see where they can live! Recommended for ages 8 and up. This program is FREE!

Run for the ACORNS!!

Sunday September 30th 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Grab a friend and enjoy some great exercise and fun at Run for the ACORNS 5k/10k trail run and walk!! Surround yourself in the beauty of the forest on trails over hills and along Black Creek. All proceeds benefit the ACORNS, the non-profit organization that supports the Genesee County parks. <https://www.geneseeacorns.org/>

Full Moon Owl Prowl

Saturday October 12th 7:00–8:30 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 Prowl! Recommended for ages 4 and up. Rain Date: Saturday October 19th 7:00–8:30 pm. \$5/person, \$10/family.

Birdwatching with Project Feederwatch

Saturday November 9th 1:30–3:00 pm
Feeding the birds is fun! Beat the winter blues and discover how you can help scientists track the movement and numbers of birds during winter by participating in Project Feederwatch—a nationwide bird population monitoring program. Find out what birds love to eat in winter and which birds might visit your backyard! For more information on Project FeederWatch go to <https://feederwatch.org/> This program is FREE!

Create-a-Critter

Saturday December 7th
1st Session: 10:30 am–12:30 pm **2nd Session:** 1:30 pm–3:30 pm
Let your imagination run WILD! Meet in the activity room of the Interpretive Nature Center for an eclectic spread of craft materials gathered from nature. Hot glue and your creativity put it all together. Get away and enjoy some quiet time with loved ones, your creation makes the perfect gift! Make garlands and ornaments edible for wildlife and trim the trees in the ACORNS Outdoor Learning Center! \$5/person, \$10/family.



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7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
At Genesee County Park & Forest

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Hear tales of the full moon that comes at the beginning of fall, and learn where it got its name from!

\$5/person, \$10/family. Pre-registration required, call 585-344-8508 and leave your name, phone number, and number of participants!

Like us on Facebook at: [Genesee County Parks, Recreation & Forestry](#)

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/

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Like us on Facebook at: [Genesee County Parks, Recreation & Forestry](#)

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/

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) 344-8508. 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 or (585) 344-1122.

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1:00 – 3:00 pm**

at the Genesee County Park & Forest

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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

Pre-registration required, call 585-344-8508 and leave your name, phone number, and number of participants to reserve your spot!

Like us on Facebook at: [Genesee County Parks, Recreation & Forestry](#)



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/

Geocaching at DeWitt Recreation Area

**Saturday September 21st, 2019
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 and anywhere.

Create a personal alias or team name to let others know you were here. Sign up as a group or by yourself!

No prior geocaching experience is necessary, a lesson and GPS unit is provided. Dress for the weather and be ready for adventure!

Meet at Pavilion 3 at Dewitt Recreation Area.

\$5/person, \$10/family

Pre-registration is required!

Call 585-344-8508 and leave your name, phone number, and number of participants to register!

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Orienteering with the Rochester Orienteering Club

At the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center



**Saturday September 14th, 2019
9:00 am - 1:30 pm
The program is FREE!!!**



Come explore the active and adventurous sport of Orienteering at Genesee County Park & Forest!!

Learn how to find your way without batteries or a cell phone signal - by using a map and compass! *All materials provided, no experience necessary!*

Orienteering is a family friendly sport for people of all ages and ability levels.

Beginner class and basic training takes place from 9 am to 10 am. Orienteering start is open 10 am to 12 pm. All courses close at 1:30 pm.

Perfect for individuals and families who love the outdoors!

Please pre-register online at <https://roc.us.orienteeering.org/> or by calling 585-344-8508 and leaving your name, phone number, and number of participants!!

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Wild Turkeys

Presented by Women in the Outdoors and the National Wild Turkey Federation



**Saturday September 28th
1:00 pm—3:00 pm**



At the Genesee County Park & Forest

This program is FREE!!

Did you know that wild turkeys can swim?



Or that they can fly 55 miles per hour?

Join the National Wild Turkey Federation and Women in the Outdoors for "Wild Turkeys" at the Genesee County Park and Forest Interpretive Nature Center to learn more cool facts and find out how they survive in the wild!

Then head out to the forest and fields to practice turkey calls and see where they can live!

Recommended for ages 8 and up. Pre-registration required. Reserve your spot by calling 585-344-8508 and leaving your name, phone number, and number of participants!!

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2019 Run for the ACORNS

5K/10K Trail Run/Walk

Including: Kids Fun Run!

NEW THIS YEAR: 10K 2-PERSON TEAM RELAY

When: Sunday, October 6, 2019

Where: Genesee County Park & Forest - Area B
East Bethany, NY 14054

For more information and registration options:

<https://www.geneseeacorns.org/run.html>

<https://register-this.com/?raceid=20191006ACRN>
(585) 344-1122

Walk or run on single and double track trails through the forest, along a creek and up and down rolling hills in the Genesee County Park & Forest with an estimated 100 feet of climb in the 10K loop. Trails are very wide and easy to negotiate (minimal rocks and roots). The course starts on asphalt and then leads into the woods for a truly beautiful run.

Check-in	8:00 a.m.
10K Run/Team relay Start	9:00 a.m.
5KRun/Walk Start	9:15 a.m.
Kids Fun Run	10:15 a.m.

This event is sanctioned by USATF.



All proceeds benefit the Genesee County parks!

2019 Run for the ACORNS

5K Trail Run/Walk and 10K Trail Run

Sunday, October 6, 2019

at the Genesee County Park & Forest

Raymond Rd, East Bethany, NY 14054



Walk or run on single and double track trails through the forest, along a creek and up and down rolling hills in the Genesee County Park & Forest, with an estimated 100 feet of climb in the 10K loop. Trails are very wide and easy to negotiate (minimal rocks and roots). The course starts on asphalt and then leads into the woods for a truly beautiful run through the countryside. All proceeds benefit ACORNS, a non-profit 501(c)(3) "friends of the park" group that supports Genesee County Parks by connecting people with opportunities for outdoor learning, exploration and fun. **Kids Fun Run!** Free to youth 10 & under. Register on race day. Age-appropriate categories and distances. Everyone is a "winner"! Free to youth 10 & under. Must register on race day. **NEW THIS YEAR: 10K 2-PERSON RELAY TEAM EVENT!** You and a friend, relative or colleague can join up to compete in a 2-person relay team over the 10K course. Each person will run approximately 5K. Best team time wins!

Starting Times: Check-in 8:00AM 10K Run & 10K Relay 9:00AM 5K Run/Walk 9:15AM Kids Fun Run ~10:15AM

Shirts: Must register by September 22, 2019 to receive a long-sleeved tech shirt. No guarantee of a shirt if you register after this date.

Awards: Medals to our overall top two male and female finishers in the 5K and 10K run and to the winning team in the 10K relay event, and to our top male and female finishers in each age group (14 & under for the 5K run, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70 & over) – you must be present to receive your medal.

Fees: \$30 in advance (must be received by 5PM September 29, 2019); \$35 late and race day registration

Online registration available at: <https://register-this.com/?raceid=20191006ACRN>

Questions or additional information: Check out our website: <https://www.geneseecorns.org/run> or call 585-344-1122

Make checks payable to: Score-This!!! **Mail to:** Score-This!!!, 15 Ranch Trail Ct., Orchard Park, NY 14127

NO BABY STROLLERS OR PETS ALLOWED IN RACE. NO RUNNER UNDER AGE 15 ALLOWED IN 10K RACE.

WAIVER: I know that running a trail race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained, and by my signature, I certify that I (and any minor I am signing as guardian for) am medically able to perform this event, and in good health, and properly trained. I agree to abide by all applicable rules of this race and by the decision of the race officials as to my ability to safely complete the event. I assume all risks associated with running/walking this event including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other runners, the effects of the weather, including high heat and/or humidity and the conditions of the course, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. I grant permission to the organizing groups to use any photograph, motion pictures, or recordings of my taking part in this event. Having read this waiver acknowledging these facts and in consideration of you accepting my entry, I, for myself, and everyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release USA Track & Field, Score This!!!, ACORNS, Genesee County, and their employees, officers, directors and volunteers, and any and all race sponsors from any claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event. I understand that all entry fees are nonrefundable. I have read this waiver and certify my compliance and agreement with its content with my signature.

Name: _____ EMAIL address: _____ Tel #: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Emergency contact: Name: _____ Tel #: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature (if under 18 years old): _____

10K 2-Person Relay Team Name: _____

T-shirt size: ___ XS ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL (shirts run large) Sex: ___ Female ___ Male

Event ___ 10K Run ___ 10K Relay ___ 5K Run ___ 5K Walk Age as of October 6, 2019 _____

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

11095 Bethany Center Rd
East Bethany, NY 14054
Phone: 585-344-1122

Visit

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

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