



# Seedlings

Volume 6, Issue 1

## Looking Forward to Spring!

We are excited about all the new things happening this spring and summer! We look forward to the opening of the Ellicott Trail at DeWitt Recreation Area just before summer arrives!! Help us beautify the park with the Earth Day Park Cleanup at DeWitt Recreation Area on Saturday April 25th from 10:00 to 2:00 pm!

Big thanks to the ACORNS for their donations of flashlights and radios for use during park programs. New in 2020 they have donated a shed to the ACORNS Outdoor Learning Center to keep equipment and supplies to make gardening, upkeep and work days easier! Thank you ACORNS!!

We have tons of new programs at the Genesee County Park & Forest in 2020! FREE birding hikes will be held at 7 am on select Saturday mornings this spring. These birding walks are perfect for novice birders to learn to identify birds by sound and sight, fun for experienced birders to enjoy the forest with other bird lovers. Walks start at Pavilion A on Raymond Road.

Local birding enthusiast Hans Kunze is hosting a special bird identification walk at Pavilion A on Saturday June 6th from 7:00 am to 9:00 am. Visit the bird feeding station and find out how to attract and identify local types of birds beyond the birdfeeder!

Two free guided dog walks will also take place this spring at the Genesee County Park & Forest. This is great for socialization and healthy exercise for everyone! Proof of rabies vaccination is required.

Join us for the FREE Wild Turkeys program on Saturday May 16th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. This program is the perfect opportunity to learn more about this fascinating local bird. Program takes place after the Birding Walk and before the Owl Prowl that evening.

Coming up in July we have Honeybees on July 11th and Nocturnal Fliers: Insects That Go Bump in the Night from 9:30 to 11:00 pm on that same evening. Come August we have 2 more new programs: Turtle Painting and Radical Reptiles on August 8th.

Grandparent's Day is on Saturday September 12th, and we are celebrating with a special program at the Interpretive Nature Center. Kids bring their grandparents to enjoy choosing their own activities including catching bugs in the meadow, walking in the woods, recycled crafts, scavenger hunts, catching critters in the pond, geocaching and more. Options include accessible indoor and outdoor activities and a card making station. Guides will be on hand to help maximize your fun. Cost is \$5/child, \$5/parent, grandparents FREE.

See inside for details about volunteer opportunities, internships, camps, programs and more!

Wildlife Monitoring Volunteers kept watch over 10 nest boxes at Genesee County Park & Forest and 5 nest boxes at DeWitt Recreation Area in 2019

Total fledglings for 2019:

Eastern Bluebirds: 24

Tree Swallows: 20

Bluebird monitoring season begins on March 21st, 2020! Join us for Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Training and discover how to help keep baby birds happy and healthy. Call 585-344-1122 for volunteer info in 2020!



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### **Interpretive Nature Center Hours October–May:**

Thursday–Friday:  
10 am–4 pm

Saturday–Sunday:  
12–4 pm

### **Interpretive Nature Center Hours May–October:**

Thursday–Saturday:  
10 am–4 pm

Sunday:  
12–4 pm





# Salamanders Common to Genesee County

Salamanders are amphibians that have 4 legs and a tail. Salamanders look like lizards, but they have the smooth wet skin of an amphibian instead of the dry scaly skin of a reptile. Salamanders also have a face similar to that of a frog, with bulging eyes and two small nostrils just above a wide mouth. Salamanders are found in wet to moist environments, in ponds, lakes, streams, wetlands, and forest habitats, especially near seeps and vernal pools. Like all amphibians, they depend on damp environments to lay their eggs and keep their skin moist, which helps them breathe. Because they are small, more active at night, and spend most of their time in the water or under rocks and logs on the forest floor, they are not often seen. However, they can be found and observed with some easy searching. New York State is home to 18 species of salamanders, 10 of which are known to be commonly found in Genesee County.

**Terrestrial Species** These types of salamanders live in forest environments and are found under logs and under rocks in the soil of the forest floor.

**Red-backed Salamander** Known to be the most common salamander in New York State, this critter may also be the most abundant vertebrate in our forests! Red-backed Salamanders have a distinct wide dark red stripe down the middle of their back. It is also common for the wide stripe to be slate grey instead of brick red, in which case they are sometimes called Lead-backed Salamanders. Eggs are laid on land in a damp place. This is the only species of salamander that does not have an aquatic larval phase.

**Blue-spotted and Jefferson's Salamander** These two species interbreed. In springtime they join the wood frogs and spring peepers in vernal pools for breeding. These salamanders wave their tails and secrete a bad-tasting slime to distract and ward off predators. Blue-spotted Salamanders live farther north than all of the other salamanders in eastern north America.

**Spotted Salamander** Abundant but rarely seen, they spend most of their lives in tunnels under the forest floor, such as burrows made by moles and other rodents. Spotted salamanders emerge on rainy spring nights and migrate to vernal pools for mating. Their favorite foods are earthworms, insects and snails.



Spotted Salamander  
Photo credit: Dwight Kuhn

**Red Eft** Commonly seen wandering about the forest floor, this bright red-orange salamander is the teenage phase of the Red-spotted Newt. This salamander begins its life as a swimming larva in a pond or lake, then takes the form of a land-dwelling salamander called a Red Eft. Once emerged to the land the eft will wander the forest for 2 to 5 years before returning to the pond as an olive-green adult with a paddle-like tail. Both the eft phase and the adult newt phase have bright red spots on either side of its spine. Their bright-colored skin secretes bad-tasting toxins that predators do not like. As a result, it is seen walking about in plain sight during the day. The adult phase is an aquatic salamander called the **Red-spotted Newt!**

**Northern Slimy Salamander** This salamander is black with silver, white or yellow spots. Slimy Salamanders hunt at night from perches on top of boulders, trees or shrubs where they await their prey. They get their name from the bad-tasting slime they secrete when they are disturbed. They are especially active in wet weather and like to eat ants, beetles, earthworms and slugs.

**Aquatic Species** These types of salamanders live in ponds, lakes and streams.

**Northern Dusky Salamander** The larvae live in streams for 2 to 3 months, then emerge onto land. Adults are always found near a stream edge. They may be many shades of brown and grey and their hind legs are much bigger than their front legs. The sharp keel along the tops of their tails tells them apart from Mountain Dusky Salamanders, which have a round tail. Dusky Salamanders can jump surprisingly far when they want to escape! They lay their eggs in wet leaf piles, moist logs, or under rocks in creeks and defend their clutch from being eaten by other salamanders.



Northern Two-lined Salamander  
Photo credit: Brian Gratwicke

**Mountain Dusky Salamander** The larvae of these salamanders morph into small juveniles that have a red stripe on their backs, which makes them resemble a Red-backed Salamander. Adults are found along streams and near seeps or springs and where the ground is saturated. They will travel far into the woods in wet weather and form large congregations near seeps and springs during wintertime.

**Two-lined Salamander** This tan salamander has 1 black line down each side. They are found along the edges of creeks and small streams. They do most of their hunting at night, sometimes climbing short plants in search of snails and small aquatic insects. They are great swimmers.

Salamanders are a sure sign that springtime is here! Enjoy!

**Sources:** NY State Conservationist Magazine Lake, Pond & Stream Salamanders of NY State and Woodland & Vernal Pool Salamanders of NY State by Alvin Breisch, Peter K. Ducey, and John Ozard; Take-Along Guide Snakes, Salamanders, and Lizards by Diane L. Burns; Peterson Field Guides Reptiles and Amphibians of North America by Roger Conant/Joseph T. Collins



# SCA Environmental Ed Internship Summer 2020



student  
conservation  
association  
thesca.org

**New York State's First County Forest has an Environmental Education Assistant Internship position open for May – August of 2020.** The position is administered through the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and is located at the Genesee County Park & Forest in East Bethany, NY. Applicants must be at least 18 years old with a high

school diploma or GED and be a US citizen. Environmental Education Assistants develop, organize, plan and lead environmental education programs to audiences of all ages in a wide variety of settings under the guidance of park staff. Environmental Education Assistants also coordinate the efforts of park volunteers.



Young students explore and learn on a hike led by Lee, Environmental Education Assistant at Genesee County Park & Forest.

## **Job duties include but are not limited to:**

- ◆ Leading programs for schools, senior groups, scouts and the general public
- ◆ Providing customer service to park visitors and program participants
- ◆ Planning volunteer and park events
- ◆ Writing articles for the parks seasonal newsletter
- ◆ Marketing of park events, programs and resources
- ◆ Scheduling and coordinating volunteers to assist with park events and projects

SCA interns earn a stipend of \$125/week while serving and are eligible for an education award of \$1,612 that can be used to repay student loans, tuition, classes or cover future college costs. This position requires 16 weeks of 40 hour/week of service from early May until late August of 2020. Hours are 6 am to 5 pm Wednesday through Saturday. Hours are flexible during early May and late August. Flexibility is given to cover the prescheduled programs that are outside of the normal working hours within the 40 hour work week.

## **Additional benefits:**

- ◆ First Aid/AED/CPR training provided
- ◆ Experience and on-the-job training in Environmental Education and Volunteer Coordinating
- ◆ Deeper knowledge of natural history and ecology
- ◆ Job duties include volunteer outings (kayaking, hiking)
- ◆ Networking with professionals in Environmental Science and Education

**Application deadline April 3, 2020**

**To apply:** Apply online at <https://www.thesca.org/serve/position/environmental-education-intern-western-ny-regional-candidate-only/po-00729461>. For additional information contact Shannon Lyaski, Conservation Education Program Coordinator at [Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us) or 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 older 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 [http://co.genesee.ny.us/departments/office\\_for\\_the\\_aging/volunteer\\_opportunities.php](http://co.genesee.ny.us/departments/office_for_the_aging/volunteer_opportunities.php)

# Environmental Science Camp



**July 13th—17th, 2020**

**9am to 4pm daily**

**At the Genesee County Park & Forest**

**(Transportation available from Batavia High School)**

**This week-long adventure includes wildlife surveys, forest and stream studies, outdoor recreation, a field trip and more!**

**For students entering 7th—10th Grade**

**\$125/camper**

**All materials, lunch, and a camp t-shirt are provided**

**Download the registration form at**

**[www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/eventsprograms.php](http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/parks/eventsprograms.php)**

Maximum 25 participants

**Registration deadline June 29th**

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





# ACORNS Adventures

## Winter Fun in the Forest with field trips, night hikes and more!

Winter brings a special beauty to the forest, and the ACORNS have been helping people enjoy it!

Girl Scouts of Western New York brought scouts to the forest on a beautiful day in January for a winter ecology hike. The snow had captured all of the nighttime hunts and travels of forest wildlife. Scouts found, followed and learned to identify opossum, raccoon, fox, coyote, mouse, red squirrel, grey squirrel, eastern cottontail, and deer tracks. They discovered buck rubs and deer beds in the forest, walked through deep snow in the meadow and watched woodpeckers and chickadees eating at the bird feeding station. It was a great day for exploring!!



Scouts search for winter dens in the forest.



Moonlight glistens on a snow-covered pond.

Saturday snowshoe hikes were rescheduled due to weather, and our patience was rewarded! Families came out for some exercise and learning about animals in winter on January 25th and February 8th. Hikers discovered deer and rabbit browse, squirrel food caches, and identified tons of tracks! The night hike on January 25th gave us great exercise in the forest. Two weeks later the snow had decorated the forest, and everything sparkled as the moon peeked out of the clouds on the night hike February 8th. Hikers enjoyed the perfect temperatures, calm air, and fireside snacks.

Hilton-Parma Rec Winter Camp and Albion 4th Grade students came to the Genesee County Park & Forest for the Winter Ecology program! Kids explored the forest and learned about animal adaptations for survival, did a wildlife



Aunt and kids seize their day in the sun and rent snowshoes at the park!

scavenger hunt in the Interpretive Nature Center, visited Ruby the Red-eared Slider and more. We had a blast!

In addition to leading and assisting winter hikes and activities, ACORNS members have been busy hosting the front desk of the Interpretive Nature Center and providing snowshoe rentals. Snowshoes are available for rent Thursdays and Fridays 10 am to 3 pm, Saturdays and Sundays 12 pm to 3 pm. We look forward to seeing you for your next adventure!



Hilton-Parma Rec Winter Camp kids enjoy a wildlife scavenger hunt in the Interpretive Nature Center.



# 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

## Members:

The Allen Family  
Charlie Augrom  
Bruce and Nancy Baker  
Robert and Jane Balbick  
Sarah Balduf  
Melissa and Christopher Caputi  
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  
Kathy Gilhooly  
Peggy Grayson  
Craig & Amy Hardie  
Sheila Hess  
The Kent Family

Daisy Klein  
Sarah Kohl  
Jeff & Priscilla Langdon  
Sam & Esther Leadley  
Tami & Pete Loftus  
Shannon Lyaski  
Glenn Merrill  
John Midla  
Bill & Connie Moon  
Terri & Michael Muehlig  
Debbi Nanni  
Paul and Emma Osborn  
Kathleen Purcel  
Jim Schmitt  
Claire & Ron Sloat  
George Squires  
Pete Stanbridge  
Dave & Sandy Steele  
Jim Taillie  
Lewis & Bonnie Tandy

The Vandenbosch Family  
Ashley Waite  
Jack Walsh  
Kathie Woika  
Nick Zinni  
Pam Zola

**Remember to renew your membership for 2020!** Send renewals to ACORNS at PO Box 787 Stafford, NY 14143.

To renew or become a member, please visit the [ACORNS website](#) or contact Lewis Tandy, ACORNS Membership Specialist at ltandy@rochester.rr.com.\*

ACORNS meetings are held every 4th Tuesday evening of the month. Check [ACORNS website](#) for location.

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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 2020

Sunday, October 4th

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

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



# Earth Day Celebration

at DeWitt Recreation Area

**Saturday April 25, 2020 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

115 Cedar St. Batavia, NY 14020

**Bring a Friend and Clean up the Park!**

**This Program is FREE!!**

## **Schedule of Activities:**

### **10:00—2:00 Park Cleanup Projects**

*Join us in helping wildlife and cleaning up the park!*

**Service hours for students and scouts!!**

### **10:00—2:00 Recycled Crafts!**

*Make something cool from recycled materials!*

### **12:00 – 1:00 Wild Planet Games**

*Get "WILD" and learn about our animal friends!!*

### **1:00 – 2:00 Wild Planet Guided Hike**

*Enjoy a free guided walk! You never know what you'll see!*



**Please register for cleanup and activities by calling 585-344-1122**

**or by email at [Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us).**

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



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# Park Events 2020

## Birding Walks

Saturdays March 7<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 am-10:00 am  
Come enjoy a birding walk at New York State's First County Forest! Birding walk is led by a birding guide and takes you through meadow, forest and wetland habitats to help you identify the birds by sound and sight. Perfect for beginner and experienced birders. Meet at Pavilion A. Walk is approximately 1 mile long over easy terrain.  
This program is FREE.

## Tree ID Hike

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm-3:00 pm  
Add more to your daily landscape and learn your trees! Learn to recognize types of trees by their bark, twigs, and branches. Find out what is special about each species and how they are useful to humans and wildlife. \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Guided Dog Walks

Saturdays April 18<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> 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. This program is FREE.

## Amphibian Adventure

Saturday April 18<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 Park Cleanup at DeWitt Recreation Area

Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
Give back and help clean up DeWitt Recreation Area to keep the habitat safe for wildlife. Make cool stuff from recycled materials, enjoy outdoor games and take a guided nature hike! Discover what you can do every day to make your world healthier. Scouts can earn badge requirements and service hours! Program is FREE.

## Pond Discovery

Saturday May 2<sup>nd</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.

## Wild Turkeys

Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am-12:30 pm  
Did you know that turkeys can swim? Join the National Wild Turkey Federation and Women in the Outdoors to learn more cool facts and find out how wild turkeys survive in the wild! Visit the forests and fields to practice turkey calls. This program is FREE.

## Owl Prowl

Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> 8:30 pm-10:00 pm  
Explore the secret world of owls in the forest. Learn about their fascinating abilities, listen for the sounds of nocturnal wildlife and visit owl habitats. Anything can happen on an owl prow! For ages 5 and up. \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Birding with Hans Kunze

Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 am - 9:00 am  
Join local birding enthusiast Hans Kunze for a beautiful morning of bird identification in New York State's First County Forest! Visit the bird feeding station and learn more about how to attract and identify different local species beyond the feeder! Recommended for ages 5 and up. Meet at Pavilion A. \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Free Fishing Day & the Kendra Haacke Memorial Fishing Derby at DeWitt Recreation Area

In partnership with the Oakfield-Alabama Lions Club  
Saturday June 27<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. This program is FREE!!

## Honeybees

Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Discover the fascinating world of honeybees and see a live beehive in action! Beekeepers explain the lifecycle and different jobs of bees while sharing cool facts and their experiences in caring for these amazing creatures. \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Nocturnal Fliers: Insects That Go Bump in the Night

Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30 pm-11:30 pm  
It's a different world when the sun goes down! Dr. Wayne Gall will attract night-flying insects to a white sheet with a mercury vapor light. See these mysterious insects up close to identify them and learn cool facts about their natural history! \$5/person, \$10/family.

## Environmental Science Camp

Monday-Friday July 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am-4:00 pm daily  
Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> grade explore different topics of Environmental Science with outdoor activities guided by professionals. This week-long adventure includes wildlife surveys, field and stream studies, outdoor recreation, a field trip, and more! Camp materials, t-shirt, lunch and snacks provided.

## Kayaking at DeWitt Recreation Area

Saturday July 25<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.

## Turtle Painting

Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am-12:00 pm  
Come meet Ruby the Red-eared Slider. Learn all about her aquatic turtle lifestyle and then watch her create a painting for you to take home! 1 painting per person. \$5/painting.

## Radical Reptiles

Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm-2:00 pm  
Reptiles are awesome!! Come see a live animal presentation of turtles, tortoises, snakes, skinks, and lizards from the Buffalo Zoo and meet them up close and personal. Touch real animal artifacts and discover the amazing lives of these scaly friends. Space is limited, call to register today! \$7/person.

## Grandparent's Day

Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am-12:30 pm  
Catching bugs in a meadow, playing outside, and walking in the woods - it's all part of Grandparent's Day at the Genesee County Park & Forest! Kids bring their grandparents to enjoy recycled crafts, scavenger hunts, catching critters in the pond, geocaching and more. Choose from the many different activities after you arrive. Activity options include accessible indoor and outdoor activities and a card making station. \$5/child, \$5/parent, Grandparents FREE!

## Watching Monarchs

Saturday September 12<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.

## Run for the ACORNS!!

Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> 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. For more information visit our website <https://runfortheacorns.shutterfly.com/> or call 585-344-1122!

## Full Moon Owl Prowl

Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm-8:30pm  
Rain Date: Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>  
Explore the secret world of owls on a full moon night. Listen for nocturnal wildlife, hear full moon folklore and visit owl habitats. Anything can happen on an Owl Prowl! \$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.**



# SPRING PROGRAMS 2020

AT THE GENESEE COUNTY PARK & FOREST



## Tree ID Hike

**Saturday March 7th 1:00 pm—3:00 pm**

Add to your daily landscape and learn your trees! Learn to recognize types of trees by their bark, twigs, and branches. Find out what is special about each species and how they are useful to humans and wildlife. \$5/person, \$10/family.



## Birding Walks

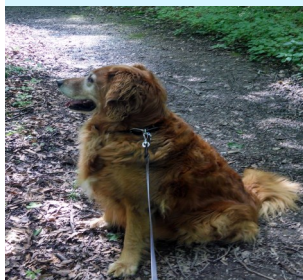
**Saturdays March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, May 16th  
7:00 am—10:00 am**

Enjoy a birding walk at New York State's First County Forest! Walk is led by a birding guide and includes meadow, forest and wetland habitats to help you identify birds by sound and sight. Great for beginner and experienced birders. Meet at Pavilion A. Walk is easy terrain. This program is FREE.

## Amphibian Adventure

**Saturday April 18th 7:30 pm—9:00 pm**

Listen to the chorus of spring and get to know your small, slimy singing neighbors! Learn to identify your pest-eating pals, then head into the wetlands and woodlands to search for them, hear them, and find out what you can do to take care of them! \$5/person, \$10/family.



## Guided Dog Walks

**Saturday April 18th and May 9th 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 is required. Aggressive dogs will not be allowed to participate. This program is FREE!

## Pond Discovery

**Saturday May 2nd 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 learn about them from a Naturalist guide. \$5/person, \$10/family.



**All programs take place at the Interpretive Nature Center unless otherwise noted.**

**Pre-registration is required—Call 585-344-1122 to reserve your spot!**

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/)



# Camp Hard Hat 2020



Campers install a concrete pad for a memorial bench.

Learn about careers in construction where you actually build parts of a community project! Instructed by certified teachers and GVEP Building Trades Instructors.

**July 27th—July 31st**

8:30 am—3:30 pm

At the Genesee County Park & Forest

**Open to students entering grades 8-10**

**\$95/Camper\***

\*Scholarships available

Includes t-shirt and water bottle

**Register at**

<https://www.beagenesee.com/summer-career-exploration-camps>

**Camp Hard Hat registration opens at 9 am**

**Wednesday April 1st**

## Service Projects 2020

### Scout, 4H and Group Service Project Opportunities

The Genesee County Park & Forest offers many volunteer opportunities and service projects for scouts, 4H members, students, individuals and community organizations. Service projects include maintaining a garden in the ACORNS Outdoor Learning Center, creating interpretive trail guides, and more.

Service hours may be earned by giving trail reports, monitoring nest boxes, maintaining garden beds, cleaning the Interpretive Nature Center or participating in a number of other park activities and events. Scouts may also complete projects to fulfill Bronze, Silver, Gold Award requirements or Eagle Scout requirements.

For more information please contact Shannon Lyaski at (585) 344-1122 or [Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:Shannon.Lyaski@co.genesee.ny.us).



# In Memory

Remembering ACORNS members who have recently passed on. They left the County Parks much better than they found them. They will be missed!

## *Kathy Jensen*

Kathy Jensen and her husband loved taking walks at the Genesee County Park & Forest. Kathy was an active ACORNS member and served as a front desk host at the Interpretive Nature Center. She was a friendly face to visitors and ready to help with any tasks, big or small. She assisted public program registration and guided visitors. She was friendly, pleasant and interesting to talk with and her presence made the park a better place to be. Kathy will have a memorial tree at the Genesee County Park & Forest along with her husband.



## *Kathy Owen*

Kathy was a contributing member of ACORNS. She loved music, photography, animals, nature, the outdoors, and her flower gardens. Her family made a generous donation of a beautiful acorn-shaped birdhouse and a collection of books and field guides to the Interpretive Nature Center that will support the education and training of park staff and volunteers for years to come.



## *Clare Sloat*

Also known as "Gadget", Clare was full of enthusiasm and sparky personality. Known as a geocaching guru, she shared her expertise and passion by leading countless groups of children on field trips at the County Park each year. She was always willing to help with a program and encourage kids to get outdoors. As very active and founding member of ACORNS, she attended the very first ACORNS meeting and served as secretary. She contributed over 500 hours of service to the Genesee County Parks. Her dedication and hard work have made the parks what they are today.





**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/)

**Birding Walks**

**Saturdays: March 7th, April  
4th, May 2nd, May 16th**

**7:00 - 10:00 am**

**Program is FREE!!**

**Meet at Pavilion A**

**At the Genesee County  
Park & Forest**

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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>**

**\*\*UPDATE\*\***

Empty toner and ink cartridges are **no longer collected** at the Genesee County Park & Forest.

Please help us and the planet by NOT bringing empty toner or ink to the Interpretive Nature Center. Please take them to **any Office Max or Staples store** to be recycled!

**\*Thank you for your support!!!\***



Do you have nature-related books you would like to donate? We have a lending library for adults to sign out books, take home and read. When you're done, bring them back and sign out more! To donate books please call the Interpretive Center at 585-344--1122 or send an email to [Shannon.Morley@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:Shannon.Morley@co.genesee.ny.us). (Magazines and encyclopedias not needed)



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