



Seedlings

Volume 10, Issue 2

Spring Beginnings at the Genesee County Parks

Spring is here and we are excited for new beginnings at the Genesee County Parks! This March, we launched a brand-new program called Junior ACORNS. Junior ACORNS are young people who care about nature and want to help make a difference while having fun together outdoors. Nineteen Junior ACORNS have joined us so far! Registration is still open, visit [our website](#) to sign up and become a Junior ACORN!



Junior ACORNS with their families

This month we were also joined by a new staff member at the Genesee County Parks. Jen Geck joined the team as our Conservation Education Program Assistant! She'll be helping out at the Interpretive Nature Center, during guided school field trips, and at park programs. We are thrilled to welcome her to our team!

Hello everyone - my name is Jen Geck. I am so excited to come on board at the Genesee County Park and Forest as the new Conservation Education Program Assistant. My family and I have enjoyed coming to the park for years to take walks on the beautiful trails - it is a special place for me and I am so happy to be a part of the team here!

I recently worked in the education field, at Pembroke School District, as both a teaching assistant as well as, an administrative assistant in the special education department. Before that I was a stay home mom to my two wonderful kiddos who are both in college now.

When I am not at work I enjoy spending time with my family at home. Now that we are empty nesters, my husband and I enjoy taking our mini doodle, Mori, for walks in the woods at home or at one of the many parks here in WNY. I also enjoy gardening, crafting, and just being outside in general!



Jen Geck



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**Yes! WE'RE
OPEN**

Interpretive Nature Center Hours October-May:

Thursday-Friday:
10 am-4 pm

Saturday-Sunday:
12-4 pm



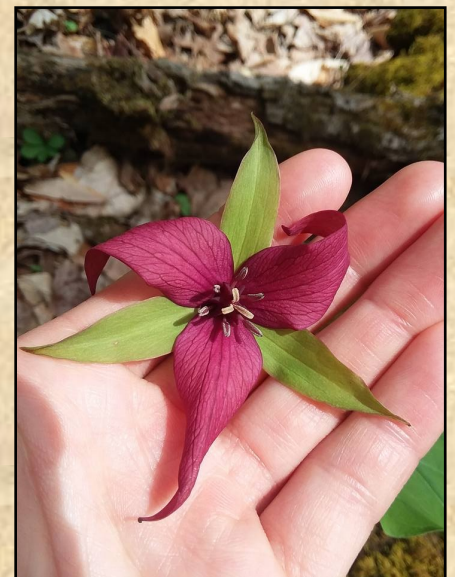
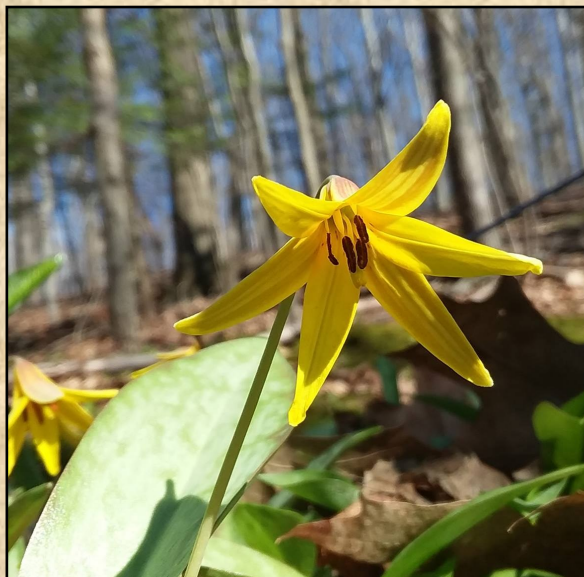
Spring Wildflowers at the Genesee County Parks

As the Spring season gently takes hold it ushers in warmer weather, sunny days, and colorful wildflowers. We are lucky to have a variety of spring wildflowers at the Genesee County Parks!

Many of the flowers you will find blooming in the months of April and May are known as spring ephemeral wildflowers. These early flowers are the first to bloom, soaking up the early spring sun that hits the forest floor before the tree leaves are fully emerged. These flowers provide very important early season nectar for pollinators. Bees, butterflies, beetles, and other pollinators visit them after overwintering when they are in need of food! In turn, these pollinators also help to transport pollen from plant to plant.

Spring ephemeral wildflowers have a very quick timeline to meet! They must photosynthesize to get the energy they need to bloom and set seed before the emerging tree leaves block the sun from reaching the forest floor for the remainder of the season. Because of their unique ecology, spring ephemeral wildflowers are particularly sensitive. If a flower is picked before it's had time to create seeds, the next generation of that species can be impacted. We want visitors to enjoy these beautiful plants for many years to come, please help us to protect them by taking photos, appreciating them on walks, but never picking them!

- **Red Trillium** (*Trillium erectum*) is named for it's flower petals, sepals, and leaves which occur in threes. This plant is also known as Wake Robin.
- **Trout Lily** (*Erythronium americanum*) is a very common plant here in the Genesee County Park! You will find many of the mottled green leaves across the forest. The name comes from the time of year the plant blooms, early Spring, when the trout are spawning! Many also believe the color of the leaves resemble the speckled coloration of a Brook Trout.
- **Cut-leaf Toothwort** (*Cardamine concatenate*) has a beautiful white flower with four petals. The leaves are whorled and sharply toothed, giving the plant its name.



Spring Wildflowers - Cut-leaf Toothwort (left), Trout Lily (middle) and Red Trillium (right).

Trails at the Genesee County Parks are open for hikers! Please be mindful of potentially muddy and slippery conditions. Follow the **Leave No Trace Principles** during your visit to the parks and NEVER pick wildflowers from the County Parks.

Turtle Habitat Fundraiser



GENESEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

TURTLE HABITAT FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD | 12 PM - 3 PM

Join the Genesee County ACORNS for a fun day filled with turtle-themed activities and help us raise money to support a brand-new enhanced indoor habitat for our Red-eared slider turtle, Ruby!

Ruby has been our resident turtle ambassador since 2011. She has spent many years inspiring people to be better stewards for our environment. We need your help to make Ruby's new home a reality!

Activities include:

- Guided Nature Walk to Turtle Pond, leaves Interpretive Nature Center at 12:30 PM
- Turtle crafts and snacks
- Meet Ruby and see her new habitat design
- 50/50 Raffle
- Basket Raffle



Ruby loves long walks in the park, basking on her rocks, and eating bugs!

This program is free, donations gratefully accepted. Meet at Interpretive Center at 11095 Bethany Center Road, East Bethany, NY.



FOR MORE INFORMATION



www.geneseeny.gov/parks



(585) 344-1122



Register or
donate here!



Concept design for Ruby's new habitat at the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center.

The design includes more space, a large tank for swimming, and an enhanced filtration system!



ACORNS Volunteers Lewis, Bonnie, Sarah, and Mary visited several local nature centers to research Red-eared slider habitats and how to improve Ruby's enclosure!

Spring Programs at the Genesee County Parks 2025

Guided Dog Walks

Saturday, April 5th, May 3rd and June 7th

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. Proceeds benefit Volunteers for Animals.

Meet at Interpretive Center.

Junior ACORNS

Saturday, April 12th | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Saturday, June 14th | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Calling all park lovers and future naturalists! The ACORNS are the volunteer friends group at the Genesee County Parks! Together, we connect people with nature through outdoor learning, exploration and fun. You can join our mission by becoming a Junior ACORN! Our April program will focus on Wildlife and Animal Stewardship at Genesee County Park & Forest. Our June program will focus on Aquatic Ecosystems at DeWitt Recreation.

Spring Break Woods Walk

Wednesday, April 16th | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for a springtime walk to enjoy the forests, fields, and meadow habitat at the Genesee County Park & Forest. We'll discover wildlife, plants, and more along the way. After our walk, we'll create a nature journal to capture our discoveries with art!

Cost for attendance is \$5/person, \$10/family.
Meet at Interpretive Nature Center.

Spring Break Pond Discovery

Thursday, April 17th | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Dive into some wild creature encounters! Find this year's young amphibians and other tiny creatures that live in the pond. Be prepared to get muddy and wet! You will be using a net and sharing a bucket of water to catch animals while learning about them.

Cost for attendance is \$5/person, \$10/family.
Meet at Interpretive Nature Center.

Spring Sweep at

DeWitt Recreation Area

Saturday, April 26th | 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Give back and help clean up DeWitt Recreation Area in honor of Earth Day! Plastic pollution harms our ecosystems, wildlife, and communities! We're joining the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Spring Sweep and cleaning up at DeWitt Recreation Area alongside hundreds of other volunteers across the Niagara River Watershed and the Great Lakes. Volunteers will pick up and remove litter from the park.

This program is free. Please pre-register at the Waterkeeper website at
<https://bnwaterkeeper.org/cleanups/>

Migration Morning Bird Walks

Tuesday, April 29th, May 6th, May 13th, and
May 20th

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Spring bird migration is here! Join us on Tuesday mornings for an easy-paced walk to enjoy this exciting time of year. Birds traveling from as far as Argentina will be stopping by Genesee County on their journey North. We'll appreciate the diversity of song and color, and learn to identify the birds that we see. Great for beginner and experienced birders. Binoculars and field guides will be available. Cost for attendance is \$5/person, \$10/family.

Meet at Interpretive Center.

Turtle Habitat Fundraiser

Saturday, May 3rd | 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Ruby the Red-eared Slider has been our resident turtle ambassador at the Genesee County Park Interpretive Center since 2011. Ruby is cared for by a team of volunteers and has spent many years inspiring people to be better stewards for our environment! Ruby has outgrown her current enclosure. We need your help to make Ruby's new home a reality! Join us for a day of fun turtle-themed activities.

This program is organized by the Genesee County ACORNS. Donations gratefully accepted.

Meet at Interpretive Center.

Spring Programs at the Genesee County Parks 2025

Full Moon Owl Prowl

Saturday, May 10th 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Explore the secret world of owls underneath the almost full moon! You never know what you'll discover during an owl prow! Cost for attendance is \$5/person, \$10/family. Meet at Interpretive Nature Center.

Genesee Valley Birding Cup

Saturday, May 17th | ALL DAY

Celebration at 6:00 pm

To celebrate the unique habitats of the Genesee Valley and the birds that these habitats support, the Humphrey Nature Center at Letchworth State Park and the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Center will hold the second annual Genesee Valley Birding Cup! Gather a team or work alone to count as many birds as possible within the Genesee River Watershed in just 24 hours. All are welcome - - whether you are a beginner or a pro!

Visit our website for more details!

Beginners Orienteering

Saturday, June 7th | 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Join our friends at the Rochester Orienteering Club for an Orienteering event! Orienteering is a fun way to learn how to navigate, finding your way from checkpoint to checkpoint along a pre-determined course. Beginner instruction from 12:00 - 12:30pm, beginner practice course open until 2:30pm. Those that attend will receive a free pass to a future ROC event! This program is free.

Meet at Interpretive Nature Center.

Get Outdoors Day

Saturday, June 14th | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Join the Genesee County ACORNS for a fun group hike to celebrate Get Outdoors Day! A guide will bring the group along a trail route seeing some of our favorite places in the park. Meet at the Interpretive Nature Center. This program is free.

Invasive Species Volunteer Workday

Saturday, June 21st | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Help us protect our beautiful park by removing Slender False Brome, an invasive grass that threatens the health and diversity of our local ecosystems. Training, supplies, and materials will be provided. Presented in partnership with WNY PRISM and the Genesee County ACORNS. Pre-registration appreciated but not required.

This program is free!

Meet at Pavilion A.

Free Family Fishing Day at DeWitt Recreation Area

Saturday, June 28th | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

In partnership with the Oakfield-Alabama Lions Club, join the Genesee County Parks 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 to borrow 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!

Meet at DeWitt Recreation Area Pavilion 2.

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 visit our website www.geneseeny.gov/parks or contact the Conservation Education Program Coordinator at Claudia.Nusstein@geneseeny.gov or (585) 344-1122.

Spring Program Flyers 2025

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

FREE FISHING DAY AT DEWITT RECREATION AREA

SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH | 10 AM - 1 PM

Join the Genesee County Parks in partnership with the Oakfield-Alabama Lions Club and try out fishing at DeWitt Recreation Area!



Friendly fishing guides will be on hand to assist. Perfect for beginners!

- Fishing poles and bait are provided or bring your own.
- No fishing license is required!
- This event is a part of the NYSDEC's Free Fishing Weekend.
- Kids up to age 16 can join the fun and have a chance to win a prize by entering the Fishing Derby.



This program is FREE! Please pre-register by visiting our website or by calling 585-344-1122. Walk-ins are also welcome!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.geneseeny.gov/parks (585) 344-1122

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

INVASIVE SPECIES VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST | 10 AM - 12 PM

Help us protect our beautiful park by removing slender false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), an invasive grass that threatens the health and diversity of our local ecosystems. Training, supplies, and materials will be provided.



Presented in partnership with WNY PRISM and the Genesee County ACORNS. This program is free! Pre-registration appreciated but not required. Meet at Pavilion A.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.geneseeny.gov/parks (585) 344-1122



GENESEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

SPRING BREAK PROGRAMS

WOODS WALK | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH | 10 AM - 12 PM

Join us for a springtime walk to enjoy the forests, fields, and meadow habitat at the Genesee County Park & Forest. We'll discover wildlife, plants, and more along the way. After our walk, we'll create a nature journal to capture our discoveries with art!



POND DISCOVERY | THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH | 10 AM - 12 PM

Dive into some wild creature encounters! Find this year's young amphibians and other tiny creatures that live in the pond. Be prepared to get muddy and wet! You will be using a net and sharing a bucket of water to catch animals while learning about them.



Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the duration of the program. Cost for attendance is \$5/person, \$10/family. Meet at Interpretive Center at 11095 Bethany Center Road, East Bethany, NY.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.geneseeny.gov/parks (585) 344-1122

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

EARTH DAY SPRING SWEEP AT DEWITT RECREATION AREA

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH | 10 AM - 12 PM



Give back and help clean up DeWitt Recreation Area in honor of Earth Day



This program is presented in partnership with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper. This program is free! Please pre-register at the Waterkeeper website at <https://bnwaterkeeper.org/cleanups>



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.geneseeny.gov/parks (585) 344-1122



Spring Program Flyers 2025

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

GENESEE VALLEY BIRDING CUP

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH AT 6 PM - SATURDAY, MAY 17TH AT 6 PM

To celebrate the unique habitats of the Genesee Valley and the birds that these habitats support, the Humphrey Nature Center at Letchworth State Park and the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Center will hold the second annual Genesee Valley Birding Cup!

Gather a team or work alone to count as many birds as possible within the Genesee River Watershed in just 24 hours. All are welcome -- whether you are a beginner or a pro!



A final tally celebration will be held at the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Center at 6pm on Saturday, May 17th.

The team or individual that counts the most bird species will win a prize. Please bring a dish to pass and your birding highlights from the day!



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.geneseeny.gov/parks (585) 344-1122

Participation in the Genesee Valley Birding Cup is free!

Donations to the Humphrey Nature Center at Letchworth State Park and the Genesee County ACORNS are gratefully accepted.

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

DOG WALKS

SATURDAYS APRIL - NOVEMBER | 10 AM - 11 AM



April 5, May 3, June 7th, & October 4th at Genesee County Park & Forest
July 12th, August 2nd, September 6th, and November 1st at DeWitt Recreation Area

Bring your best friend and join us for a guided dog walk at the Genesee County Parks! This program 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. Cost for the program is \$5/dog. All proceeds benefit Volunteers for Animals.



FOR MORE INFORMATION www.geneseeny.gov/parks (585) 344-1122

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

FULL MOON OWL PROWL

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH | 7 PM - 9 PM



Explore the secret world of owls
underneath the almost full moon!



Great for beginner and experienced birders and families. Cost for attendance is \$5/person, \$10/family.
Meet at Interpretive Center at 11095 Bethany Center Road, East Bethany, NY.

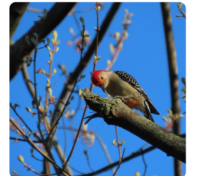
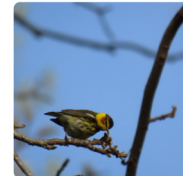


FOR MORE INFORMATION www.geneseeny.gov/parks (585) 344-1122

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

MIGRATION MORNING BIRD WALKS

TUESDAY, APRIL 29TH, MAY 6TH, MAY 13TH, AND MAY 20TH | 8:30 - 10 AM



Spring bird migration is here! Join us on Tuesday mornings at Genesee County Park & Forest for an easy-paced walk to enjoy this exciting time of year. Birds traveling from as far as Argentina will be stopping by Genesee County on their journey North. We'll appreciate the diversity of song and color, and learn to identify the birds that we see.



Great for beginner and experienced birders. Binoculars and field guides will be available to borrow. Cost for attendance is \$5/person, \$10/family.
Meet at Interpretive Center at 11095 Bethany Center Road, East Bethany, NY.



FOR MORE INFORMATION www.geneseeny.gov/parks (585) 344-1122

Now Hiring Summer Intern

We are excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for our Summer Environmental Education Assistant Intern! This intern will join us from June—August full time, assisting with programming and fun outdoor adventures at the Genesee County Parks!



Former intern Kieran and volunteers Lewis and Mary teaching about honeybees

What does an Environmental Education Assistant Intern do?

- **Conduct educational and recreational programs** like school field trips, scout programs, and environmental science summer day camp!
- **Provide customer service to park visitors** by staffing the nature center, answering questions about park wildlife, trails, and activities.
- **Assist with marketing and social media** by taking photos and writing articles for the Seedlings newsletter!
- **Care for Ruby the Red-eared Slider turtle** by feeding her and helping maintain her habitat
- **And so much more!**

Apply online at www.sca.org.

Search for #PO-00801076-MEM in the title or East Bethany, NY in the location.

GENESEE COUNTY PARK & FOREST Environmental Education Assistant SCA Paid Internship - Summer 2025

New York State's first County forest has an Environmental Education Assistant Internship position open from June to August of 2025. The position is administered through the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and is located at the Genesee County Park & Forest Interpretive Nature Center in East Bethany, NY.

Applicants must be a US citizen and at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or GED. 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.

Job duties include but are not limited to:

- Conducting educational and recreational programs for schools, summer recreation groups, scouts, summer day campers, 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 and updating Interpretive Nature Center displays
- Marketing for park events, programs and resources
- Scheduling and coordinating volunteers to assist with park events and projects

SCA interns earn a stipend of \$400/week and are eligible for an education award of \$1,956. This position requires 12 weeks of 40 hours/week of service from June until August of 2025. Hours are 8 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Saturday. Flexibility is given in order to cover the prescheduled programs that are outside of the normal working hours within the 40-hour work week.

Apply online at <https://myjobs.adp.com/scacareers/cx/job-listing>

Search for ##PO-00801076-MEM in the title or East Bethany, NY in the location.

The application deadline is Friday, May 2nd, 2025

Contact the Conservation Education Program Coordinator at Claudia.Nussstein@geneseeny.gov or call 585-344-1122 for more information.



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**

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.

www.geneseeny.gov/Department-Content/Office-For-The-Aging/AmeriCorps-Senior-RSVP-Program

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.

Please contact Claudia Nusstein at (585) 344-1122 or email Claudia.Nusstein@geneseeny.gov

Summer Camp Registration now OPEN

Summer Camp is a time-honored tradition at the Genesee County Parks! Each year we host two camps, Camp Hard Hat, which is managed by the Genesee County Business Education Alliance, and Environmental Science Summer Camp, which is managed by our conservation education staff, volunteers, and interns.

Environmental Science Summer Camp is a week-long adventure for students in 7th—10th grades. This day-camp includes wildlife surveys, forest and stream studies, outdoor recreation and more! Campers will meet with local environmental professionals, explore future career opportunities, all while making friends and having fun outdoors.

A typical day at Environmental Science Summer Camp

8:30 am Campers meet at Batavia High School, ride bus to Genesee County Park & Forest

9:00 am Arrive at camp, review day

9:15 am—11:15 am Stream Study at Black Creek

11:15 am—12:15 pm Campers Choice: Nature Journaling or Fishing at the Wetland

12:15 pm—12:45 pm Lunch Break

12:45 pm—1:15 pm Forest Guided Walk

1:15—2:15 pm Wilderness First Aid

2:15 pm —3:30 pm Create Tie Dye T-shirts

3:30 pm —4:00 pm Ride bus to Batavia High School

4:00 pm Camper Pickup



Summer Camp Registration now OPEN

Summer day camps will be back at the Genesee County Park & Forest in 2025! Register today to join either or both of our two annual favorites, Environmental Science Summer Camp and Camp Hard Hat.

Visit www.geneseeny.gov/parks to register for Environmental Science Summer Camp

Visit www.camphardhat.org to register for Camp Hard Hat



Environmental Science Camp: Monday, July 14th—Friday, July 18th



Camp Hard Hat: Monday, July 28th—Friday, August 1st

ACORNS Highlights from Winter 2025



Happy volunteers at the Moonlight Snowshoe Hike



ACORNS at the Great Backyard Bird Count



Junior ACORNS giving their best silly face during trail ranger training



Hikers at the Groundhog Day Walk



Lewis Teaching about Skulls

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:

Chris Caputi President
Ashley McKeown Vice President
Julia Garver Treasurer
Kathy Woika Secretary
Ashley McKeown Membership Specialist
Chris Nickerson
Jerome Gentry
Lewis Tandy
George Squires
Pete Stanbridge

Members:

Gabe & Michelle Abdella
The Allen Family
Charlie Augrom and Lucy Sargent
Nancy Balbick
Sarah Balduf
Sam & Ann Barone
Jenna Benedict
Beth Berkemeier
Brian & Renee Burns
Melissa & Christopher Caputi
Sonya & Carl Christensen
Guy & Patricia Clark
Tom & Linda Clark
Adam Clark
Nina Czach
The Dambra Family
Alea Delong
Barb & Mike Easton
Julia Garver & Joe Ruh
The Gentry Family

Liz Genesky
Shelia & Paul Hess
Bernard Hoerbelt
David Jaros
Brian Kemp
The Kent Family
Sarah Kohl
Jeff & Priscilla Langdon
Esther Leadley
Kathy Lee
The Lyaski Family
Mary Lou & Jack Lemkuil
The Lewis Family
Krysia & Jon Mager
Kyle & Ashley McKeown
Mary Miller
Katie Mohler
Bill & Connie Moon
Mike Morasco
Jim & Claudia Morrison
Sharon Mosher
Cassandra Pettry & James Nesbitt

Christine & Brad Nickerson
The Nusstein Family
The Osborn Family
Pat Patota
Kathy Purcell
David Rumsey
Jim Schmitt
Sean Sheehan
George Squires
Pete Stanbridge
Sandy & Dave Steele
Lewis & Bonnie Tandy
Kristin Turturo
Chase & Bianca Vallance
The Vandenbosch Family
Evan Verbanic
Mitchell & Morgan Wardell
Kathie & Jack Woika
Kayrn Winters
Pam Zola

Remember to renew your membership for 2025!

To renew or become a member, please visit the ACORNS website or contact Ashley McKeown, ACORNS Membership Specialist at acornsoutreach@gmail.com Send renewals to ACORNS at PO Box 787 Stafford, NY 14143.

ACORNS meetings are held every 4th Tuesday evening of the month except December.

Junior ACORNS receive a **FREE** family membership!

Information available at
geneseeny.gov/parks

Rex Introduces the Genesee County Park Dog Patrol

Hi! Rex here, I am a friendly German Shepard who loves walking at the Genesee County Parks. In each issue of the Seedlings Newsletter, I introduce you to a member of the Genesee County Park Dog Patrol. The GCP Dog Patrol highlights our furry friends who love spending time at the park.

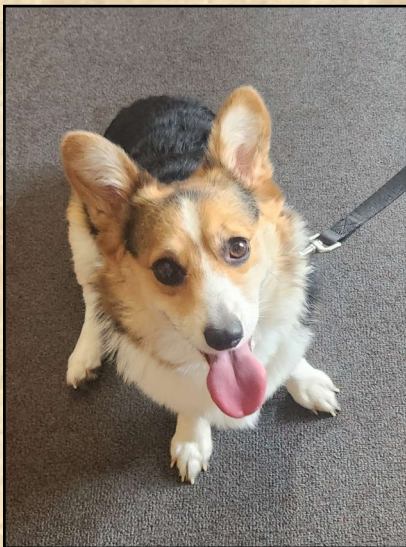
In this issue of the Seedlings I want to introduce you to the newest member of the GCP Dog Patrol—my friend Skye! Skye is a one year old German Shorthaired Pointer. I got to know Skye when she was just a puppy. She is full of life and will definitely grow into a valued member of the patrol.

Skye and I have two things in common, we both have German in our names and we both love our fearless leader, Claudia, the Conservation Education Program Coordinator at the Genesee County Parks! Although Skye has an advantage in that she gets to live with Claudia. As a bird dog, Skye loves watching birds almost as much as her owners do. Make sure when you see Skye at the park you welcome her to the GCP Dog Patrol!



Claudia and Skye

I also want to introduce you to a special friend of the parks and mine. Calista is a former summer intern and the artist who expertly depicts my adventures in the comic strip "Rex and the GCP Dog Patrol". Calista sadly lost her beloved Corgi, Courage, and is including an article in his honor. We are sorry for your loss Calista! We hope you find solace in knowing what a wonderful life you gave Courage and the special memories of adventures together at the parks!



Courage the Corgi

Hey, this is Calista, the person drawing these comics! The adorable perfect Corgi here was named Courage, and he was my dog. Earlier this year, he got extremely sick and passed away at the young age of four. I could go on for hours about this dog and how sad I am that he's gone, but I'll try to keep it short.

Courage was a very good dog. Smart, always sweet, and he never did anything naughty. In the few times I got the pleasure of taking him for walks in this park, he always had to be the leader. He would run to be in front to guide me down the trails, almost always taking the opposite turn of my intended path when the trail split. He also almost used to send me toppling down hills. He may have been small, but that low center of gravity was no joke. He was a little punk, and I loved that about him.

He is pictured here in the Interpretive Center office, Of course where he is not supposed to be, but I couldn't leave him alone outside in the heat while I used the copier. Truly a punk! And now, he's immortalized in this issue of my comic. I miss you dearly, Courage.

Would your dog like to join Rex and the GCP Dog Patrol? Join Rex's monthly dog walks on Saturdays from April—November.

Save the date for:

April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, October 4th at Genesee County Park & Forest &
July 12th, August 2nd, September 6th and November 1st at DeWitt Recreation Area



REX!

& THE GCP DOG PATROL

Illustrated by Calista Light.
Written by Pete Stanbridge.



Ruby the Red-eared Slider Turtle



Join the Turtle Habitat Fundraiser on May 3rd!

Learn more or donate on the Acorns website: www.geneseecorns.org

Save the Date for the Run for the ACORNS

Join the Genesee County ACORNS at the Genesee County Park & Forest **Sunday, October 5th 2025** for their annual 5k and 10k fundraiser trail run / walk!

All proceeds benefit ACORNS, a non-profit 501(c)(3) "friends of the park" group that supports the Genesee County parks by connecting people with nature through outdoor learning, education and fun!



Rent a Kayak at DeWitt Recreation Area



Kayaks are available for rent at DeWitt Recreation Area! Life jackets and paddles are included!

Remember to follow safe paddling practices:

- Always wear your PFD (Person Flotation Device)
- Avoid paddling alone
- Avoid cold weather risks by following the 120 degree rule! Even on a sunny day paddling can pose a risk for hyperthermia. A good rule of thumb is wait to paddle until the water and air temperature add up to at least 120 degrees!

Visit the kiosk at the boat launch and follow the steps on the outside. Visit <https://www.rent.fun/genesee-county-ny> for details and more information!



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Genesee County Park & Forest
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Website: www.geneseeny.gov/parks



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