

Friends of the CARANTOUAN GREENWAY

Yes! Count me in! I believe in protecting farm and forestland, wildlife habitat and watersheds in the Penn-York Valley. I want to become a member of Carantouan Greenway!

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mighty Oak | \$500 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Trailblazer | \$25 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle | \$75 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stargazer | \$50 per year | | |

Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Telephone _____

Gifts to Carantouan Greenway are fully tax deductible! (Tax Id Number: 23-2750872)

Please send all contributions to Carantouan Greenway, PO Box 441, Sayre, PA 18840-0441 or PO Box 827, Waverly, NY 14892-0827

A SPONSOR MEMBER OF THE

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

CARANTOUAN GREENWAY

PO Box 441
Sayre, PA 18840-0441

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



RIVER TALK

Fall 2009

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Dear supporter & reader,

The Carantouan Greenway has reduced its membership renewal drive to a single solicitation as evidenced in this request.

Hopefully most of you have been watching the Ken Burns' special on our National Parks which documents how the efforts of a few have had the wonderful effect of protecting so many of America's natural assets for all citizens to enjoy. The Carantouan Greenway, with your support and limited person-power, has been able to work on local environmental awareness, public access and land protection.

The Greenway has maintained its Wildwood dam, its trails at both Wildwood and Forbidden Path as well as providing structured educational programs at both sites. These sites have provided a reprieve for some, an opportunity to convene with nature for others and a knowledge of just knowing its there for still others. We have re-instituted our High-School Challenge on "How Drilling in Marcellus Shale will effect Fragmentation of our Forest Lands." We will be looking forward to an art showing on the Great Blue Heron, that represents the Susquehanna River and other water resources. Watch the local media for the art show date as well as our annual "Talk to the Animals" program put on in cooperation with the Waverly students.

Please take a moment to reflect on life's values and renew your membership (back of newsletter) as a FRIEND of the Carantouan Greenway. Thanks for your continued support.

Marty Borko, President

Talk to the Animals scheduled at Wildwood for Friday, October 16th at 6 PM.

We can use help. 565-2636

THANKS.

The Caranouan Greenway can not succeed without its many partners and volunteers.

Thanks to R&R Canvas's Les Rolfe and Rob Simandle for their chain-saw work at Wildwood; Barry Skeist for his maintaining Forbidden Path; Jon & Sue Moehlmann, Richard Bartlett and Bruce Rogers and Jo Taylor for their continued efforts in trail improvement; Bill Hotchkiss for his support; the Town of Barton Highway Department for their help in the parking lot and entrance road; the Tioga County Sheriff's Department for their safety work in Talk to the Animals; Kim Jendrzyczak, drama advisor, and facilitator for Talk to the Animals; and John Palmer key operator of the Corporate weed-wacker. A special thanks to a cooperating neighbor, Ralph Porter.

Thank you all.

Eagle Scout Re-routes Overlook Trail

Matthew Luther, completed his eagle scout rank by re-routing the Overlook Trail. Matt, the son of Fred C. Luther and Jacqueline Luther of Waverly earned this highest Boy Scout Ranking at Wildwood. The re-routing swings the trail to the north, makes a loop and reduces the probability of erosion as well as making walking the trail a little easier. A new trail head sign was also erected by Matt and his troop. The Greenway congratulates Matt, his troop and his family.

Observations:

The cannon hole area of the Susquehanna usually has a Great Blue Heron, a Kingfisher perhaps a duck or goose maybe swallows. While checking out the Cannon Hole in August I observed a kingbird that had just caught a large dragonfly. It flew up and landed on the telephone lines, released the insect from its grasp and flew out and caught it again. It did this twice and then manipulated the dragonfly with its beak until its head was going down the flycatchers throat. It then proceeded to swallow the insect wings and all.

This spring while walking the Sayre Riverfront Trail I observed a brown creeper with food in its decurved beak. I watched it land in a large tree and spiral up, searching for more insects. It then flew to a large tree and disappeared right before my eyes, disappearing right into the bark. The nest of the brown creeper is behind bark of trees that may be dead or just have a small raised section, enough to sneak behind. Close inspection showed a few small twigs projecting from the bark but other than that the nest was totally hidden from view. You had to know where to look to have any hope of seeing the nest. It may have been the earliest nesting record of creepers in PA.

In mid-September I was walking up Waverly street and was stopped in my tracks by a wacka - wacka-wacka overhead. I was just passing under the reddening palmate leaves of a red-maple. I looked down and saw that the walk was covered with large wooden chips. Looking up I saw a warbler and then the active chiseling pileated woodpecker. Not only was I watching it, but so was the warbler and a black-capped chickadee which also came to inspect what was going on. The pileated was after the large black carpenter ants in the maple. Chances are it will return on another day as I expect that the maple will be around for awhile yet.

Nature Art Exhibit

Nature's Art, an exhibit by Art Clark-nature photographer, will be set up during the month of October in the Artspace Gallery at 179 Front Street in Owego. The show is set up in cooperation with the Tioga County Arts Council. Phone 607-687-0785.

Eupatoriums

You are all familiar with Eupatoriums, though perhaps not by that name. Their common names are Joe Pye Weed, Boneset and White Snakeroot. These are all fall flowering composites. The composites have clusters of small flowers, either tubular, strap-shaped or both in dense clusters. The Eupatoriums have tubular florets with the Snakeroot and Boneset having white ones and Joe Pye Weed more purple. The Boneset and Joe Pye Weed are most often found in wet places. The common boneset has perfoliate leaves which means that the main stem seems to pierce right through them. Joe Pye Weed has whorled leaves which means it has many leaves coming out at the same point on the stem. White Snakeroot is common on drier sites, is common in our woods and perhaps even appears as a weed in your flower garden. Its leaves are broad, toothed and have long petioles or stems.

Hackberry

Hackberry is our Number 14 in our tree guide. It has alternate unequal sided sharply toothed long-pointed leaves. It can grow as much as 90 feet with a diameter of 3 feet and a dark pitted fruit that is utilized by wintering birds. It is very common along the Cannon Hole-Barton Road.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Descriptive Name for a Beautiful Bird

(taken in part from Birds & Blooms, Oct/Nov 2009 issue)

submitted by Marilyn Palmer

Some people, especially maple sap harvesters, think that sapsuckers are bad because they “ruin their sugar maples” with their holes. While their holes may cause some grief, they will not kill trees. If you want to protect young trees, however,



completely red. Females have a white throat or may have a few red feathers in their crowns, but their crowns can also be completely black.

Despite their unfortunate name, yellow-bellied sapsuckers have many admirable qualities. They're tremendously hard workers, drilling two to twenty new sap wells per day. They do this even while taking care of their young, which requires catching insects and dipping them in sap.

you can wrap the trunks with burlap or hardware cloth. If you like warblers, nuthatches and hummingbirds, sapsuckers are your friends. Because of their ability to get sap to flow abundantly from trees, some bird species will follow the sapsuckers around in order to enjoy the sweet nectar that they release with their excavations, while others enjoy feasting on the insects that get stuck in the sap-filled holes.

Despite their name, sapsuckers actually lick sap. Their tongues, much shorter than other woodpecker's, have bristle-like hairs that lap sap the way a paintbrush grabs paint. And while sap dominates their diet, they will also eat insects, or you might be able to entice them with fruit or suet. The yellow-bellied is the only sapsucker we have around here. They can be found in almost any woody area. The throat and crown of the male are

GRAND MANAN ISLAND- A GREAT PLACE TO VISIT

written by Marilyn Palmer

In mid August John, Marty, and I spent a week participating in an Elderhostel migratory bird watching event on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, Canada. The only way to get to the island is via a 1 1/2 hour ferry ride. The island is 15 miles long and 3 miles wide, with many wonderful hiking trails with scenic views of the ocean and cliffs. The livelihood of those who live there centers mostly around fishing and whale watching and fishing excursions for tourists. The island has no movie theater, no high school (the students make the 3-hour ferry ride every day), no department stores, no chain stores of any kind - YAY!. They do have a large, modern library, two excellent museums that give talks/tours that are both interesting and educational, excellent dining that specializes in truly fresh seafood, a bakery, and several artisan shops.

Like all Elderhostel programs, this one involved daily excursions around the island or boat trips, and evening educational programs. Everything we did was fascinating. Our guides took us birding, but also showed us wildflowers and the geology of the island. Our boating excursions were utterly fantastic. We saw four kinds of whales, two species of seals, and dolphins, as well as shore birds and Pelagic birds (those that live on the ocean and only come on land to nest). Our tour leaders/guides were knowledgeable and experienced, and were able to get us to places where we could see everything up close and in detail. Everyone was very excited to see the Atlantic puffins, but I found all of the birds/ocean life to be equally beautiful and fascinating, including the storm petrels, razorbills, guillemots, common eiders, and parasitic jaegers.

We saw salmon farms that differ greatly from those in the US - mainly because the high tides prevent the buildup of toxic wastes, and lobster ponds where lobsters are kept after they are trapped and sold to restaurants. Again, the high regional tides are used to keep the water clean and the lobsters healthy. We saw herring weirs (they pronounce it 'wares') and the boats that are called to empty the weirs when they are full of fish. We learned how seals, dolphins, and even whales have to be rescued from these weirs periodically, and the hard-earned cooperative relationship between the fisher folk and conservationists who work there to try to preserve the balance of nature in the harbor. We saw fishing boats of every kind, and heard about scallop harvesting and “shocking” (shucking). The meals we were served were superb. Every seafood choice was fresh-caught that day. I find it hard to buy seafood here now that I know what truly fresh seafood tastes like!

I highly recommend a visit to Grand Manan to anyone who loves to be outdoors. There is much to see, do, and learn there, and it is fascinating to talk to people who feel privileged to live in a beautiful place that is not contaminated with traffic, pollution, commercialism, or crime. If you want to see some amazing photographs taken during our week at Grand Manan by Charles Johnson, a wildlife photographer hobbyist, check out this website: http://www.unc.edu/~johnsonc/Web_MtDesertGrManan/index.htm

United Way

The Bradford County United Way has agreed to support the Carantouan Greenway with quarterly payments of \$125.00 for a total of \$500.00 for the year. The Greenway is most appreciative of the support and the recognition of the Greenway as a partner in the Twin Tiers in providing educational programs on the environment, field trips and ecological advice to individuals and communities.

