

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 _____

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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

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LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

CARANTOUAN GREENWAY

PO Box 441
Sayre, PA 18840-0441

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



RIVER TALK

Spring 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Ralph Porter-Thank You
1. Exhibit Project
1. Spring
2. Gas Drilling
2. Grant Applications
2. Organic Food Advantages
3. Identifying Trees in Winter
4. Membership



Ralph Porter receiving a THANK-YOU from Carantouan Greenway's president Marty Borko. Ralph has been our neighbor, supporter and facilitator to complete the restoration of the Wildwood dam. Ralph supplied the #4 stone for the spillway, the clay for under the spillway and the 60 foot excavator used to expose the drain pipe for the pond. The Greenway wants to thank Penelope Borko for her rendering of and donation of Ralph's special breed of cattle for presentation.

Susquehanna Heron Photographic Exhibit Project

This April and May will be a busy time for the Great Blue Heron off of the rest stop just west of Owego. We will be facilitating the photographic expertise of Ron Dixon. Ron is a retired art teacher with the facility to use long lenses and is therefore able to digitally document the family life of the herons. Ron is going to prepare a dozen mounted photos for exhibit as well as a DVD on heron activity. The Greenway plans to use both for educational presentations. John Palmer and Marty Borko plan to help in anyway they can. If you have a particular interest in facilitating this activity please contact John or Marty. As we did not receive any grant money for either of these projects please consider, if you are able, a special contribution this Spring.

Spring

We know by the end of February that the daylight is getting longer and we search the sky for the returning turkey vultures with their diagnostic dihedral glide. By March the cardinals, titmice and carolina wrens are singing. Robins have returned with the first warming rains and spotted salamanders began to move toward their vernal pools and the sounds of the spring peepers. The silver maples are flowering along with the elms and as we enter April we look at the red wash of the red maple flowers. The large flocks of migrating gees that we saw in mid-March are gone and the waterfowl begin to nest. The ground is getting warmer and it is time to plant the first seeds in the garden.

Gas Drilling Challenge

The Carantouan Greenway has challenged high school students in Bradford County PA, Tioga and Chemung Counties in NY to prepare and submit a 15 - 20 minute presentation on "Fragmentation Effects on our forest lands and forest land habitat as a result of drilling for and transporting gas from the Marcellus shale beds". We are going to, depending on the number of submissions offer a \$500 and a \$200 award to the recognized winners. The deadline for submissions is June 1st with the presentation of awards to take place at the end of June. The potential for long term damage to our ground water is real and it is imperative that the next generation appreciate that risk.

Grant Applications

The Carantouan Greenway did try and will continue our efforts to earn some incentive grant money to do more for the public good. At the end of 2008 we applied for a Capacity Building Grant to Parks and Trails of New York. On January 12 we were notified that we were not recipients. In February we applied to the Community Foundation for South Central New York for a grant to help fund our Susquehanna Herons Photographic Exhibit Project which on March 27th was denied. We did try and will continue to do so. In part this result makes our endowment account, with the Twin Tiers Foundation, that much more important. We need to build our own funds up so we can do more public outreach.

10 REASONS TO EAT ORGANIC FOODS

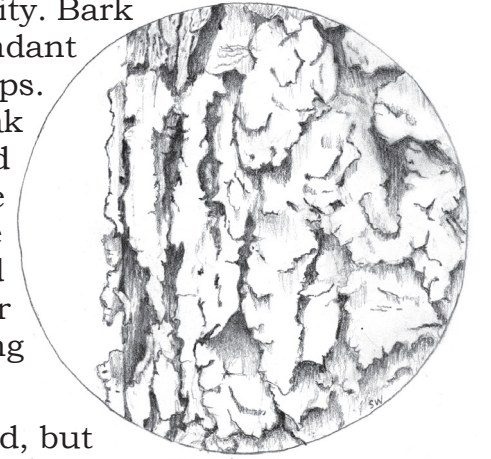
1. STOP EATING CHEMICALS: Organic foods must, by law (USDA), be produced without use of pesticides and other synthetic chemicals such as those which are easily detected on conventionally grown fruits, vegetables and grains.
2. PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN: Children are, as a rule, more vulnerable to toxins than are adults. This is why children especially should be fed an organic diet and taught how to resist junk-food culture.
3. PRESERVE WATER QUALITY AND AIR QUALITY: Water and air are our most important resources. Infiltration of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and other soluble chemicals into surface and groundwater is a major source of concern all across North America.
4. PREVENT SOIL EROSION AND IMPROVE SOIL QUALITY: Across North America, soil is eroding seven times faster than it can be replaced. Organic farmers are bound by law and oath to have a soil building program in place for maintaining or improving this precious resource.
5. PROTECT FARM WORKER HEALTH: Farm workers in this country and abroad are exposed to the highest concentrations of agricultural poisons of any segment of the population and the devastation to them and their families is well documented
6. SUPPORT SMALL SCALE LOCAL FARMERS: By buying locally produced foods, you are keeping local farms viable; you are not contributing to the environmental and social costs of the worldwide transport of foods or supporting a system based on the exploitation of third world labor. You are helping your community attain food security. It is a myth that huge, corporate agribusiness is more efficient than the small farmer.
7. SAVE ENERGY: Organic farming is accomplished with less energy consumption. Inputs like fertilizer are naturally occurring and require less processing than substances manufactured by huge chemical companies. Organic food generally travels less miles from farm to market saving energy in transport. Many organic farmers incorporate alternative and renewable energy sources into their farming/homesteading systems.
8. PROMOTE BIO-DIVERSITY: Many large scale agri-businesses operate by the method of mono-cropping-- the practice of planting large plots of land with the same crop, year after year. This depletes the soil of nutrients causing farmers to become more and more dependent on fertilizers. Also, this upsets nature's pest controls by reducing species variety. Different plants attract different bugs and the more bugs around a farm, the higher the percentage of beneficial insects in the population. Solid blocks of one crop actually attracts pests who like to eat that crop. Increased genetic resistance to pesticides has caused crop losses to double in the last 50 years. Organic growers practice methods and techniques like crop rotation, cover cropping and composting.
9. ORGANIC FOODS TASTE BETTER: Taste is hard to quantify, but science does tell us that organic foods do have higher levels of vitamins, minerals, and beneficial nutrients than conventional foods. It only makes sense that food grown in soil that has been nourished and cared for is more nutritious and will end up tasting better.
10. ORGANIC FOODS ARE REQUIRED TO BE FREE FROM GENETICALLY ENGINEERED OR MODIFIED INGREDIENTS (GMOs): Science is now suggesting GMOs pose significant health risks to people and animals that eat them and it is certain that GMOs pose unacceptable risks to bio-diversity and natural ecosystems.

Identifying Trees in Winter

Written and Illustrated by Susanne Williams

As Old Man Winter released his death grip on of the icy reign he had on our region, an enthusiastic group of hikers joined guide Mary Borko at the Wildwood Nature Reserve on Sunday, March 15, for a guided tour of tree identification. A printed guide was handed to each participant, conveying basic information about 25 trees and shrubs found at the preserve. The numbered guide was used to identify the trees that were also marked by yellow markers on the trees. This was augmented by Mr. Borko's extensive knowledge of trees as the group walked the trails.

Even without leaves, trees give us many clues as to their identity. Bark is often the first and most obvious clue. One type of tree abundant at the preserve has bark that is scaly and resembles potato chips. This darkly barked tree would be the black cherry. Both red oak and white oak are found here also. The two can be distinguished with the bark of the red oak bears shiny, reddish plates, while the bark of the white oak has a lighter color. The bark of the red maple has a checkered appearance. The deeply grooved bark is but one distinguishing feature of the black locust. Over the seasons, the springtime white flowers will produce dangling pods by this member of the bean family.



This writer can identify a shad tree in bloom from across a field, but had no idea what the tree itself looked like up close. Near the water's edge a shad tree is clad in a smooth gray skin. The flowers will then produce edible berries in the summer. Who knew?

Trees that bear fruit or nuts often have thicker branches and twigs to support the weight of the load as noted with the oak, walnut and apple trees. Debris at the foot of the tree also gives us clues as to the tree's identity. Picking up an oak leaf one can distinguish a white oak by its curved lobe leaf while the red oak has pointed lobes.



Red Oak

Thorns on the hawthorn, or thorn apple, are obvious, whereas buds may require a closer look. Oak tree buds have a pointed appearance whereas red maples have a rounded appearance. Identification can further be clarified by noting the positioning of branches, determining if they are opposite one another or alternating down the larger branch. Inside the branch of the black walnut one will find a mocha-colored pith. The velvety branches and red fruit of the staghorn sumac make this tree stand out. This nonpoisonous tree is a nutritious food source for birds and animals. Did you know a white pine can be differentiated from other pines by counting the number of needles? If it is a group of 5 then it is a white pine.



White Oak

In addition, Borko pointed out other fascinating facts about ferns, skunk cabbage, plant galls, lichen, moss and other residents of the woodland inhabiting the preserve. He pointed that if one sees a fungus growing on a tree, for every ounce of fungus on the outside, there is 100 ounces on the inside, and that contrary to popular belief the fungus does not harm the tree. He also pointed out that acorns from the oak are edible, and were used by Native Americans, ground into a flour for cooking.

The hike concluded with a walk out to the restored dam site undertaken last summer. Numerous hikers remarked on the migrating water fowl spotted in the past week or so including hooded mergansers. All in all a gloriously illuminating tour was enjoyed by the hikers on this warm late winter day.