

River Talk

Newsletter of the Carantouan Greenway



Spring 2024

Adventure on the Amazon

Annual Membership Dinner Slated for April 23



The Carantouan Greenway is excited to announce its annual membership meeting and speaker, taking place Tuesday, April 23 at Yanuzzi's Restaurant, 235 Desmond St., Sayre at 6 p.m. This year's after-dinner presentation highlights an adventurous trip down the Amazon River by Esther Angert and David McCartt, who toured Manaus, Brazil and parts of the Amazon by riverboat in January. The guided tour took them to sites on the Amazon River and Rio Negro, where they

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Make Your Dinner Reservations

Tuesday, April 23 at Yanuzzi's Restaurant, 235 Desmond St., Sayre at 6 p.m. Price is \$25 per person. Reservations may be made by sending a check to Carantouan Greenway, P.O. Box 441, Sayre, PA 18840-0441; through our PayPal account (carantouangreenway.org) or by contacting Marty Borko at 607-565-2636. The public is welcome to attend. Deadline for reservations is April 15.

Cool Hike

Signs of fall were everywhere on this bright, brisk November 15th morning. Walking along the dam an icy crust was noticeably covering the pond, the first ice cover of the season. Almost as if calling out an early holiday wish the delightful red berries and green foliage of the partridge berry sent out a colorful greeting from the forest floor. Leaf litter was churned up, evidence that wild turkeys had been foraging through the leaf litter for acorns, seeds, worms or other insects. The leisurely walk provided time to inspect the rattlesnake fern, a member of the grapefern species, changed to an autumnal green-gold after the recent frost.



Unveiling the Forbidden Path

A tribute to history and Katie DePumpo Harding

In a serene corner of Waverly, a path winds through the lush greenery, leading adventurers and history buffs alike to the Carantouan Spring, a site steeped in historical significance. This trail, now known as the Forbidden Path, was recently honored with a new sign, a heartfelt donation from Dr. Tom and Nancy Martin in memory of the late Katie DePumpo Harding, a native of Waverly and a passionate hiking enthusiast.

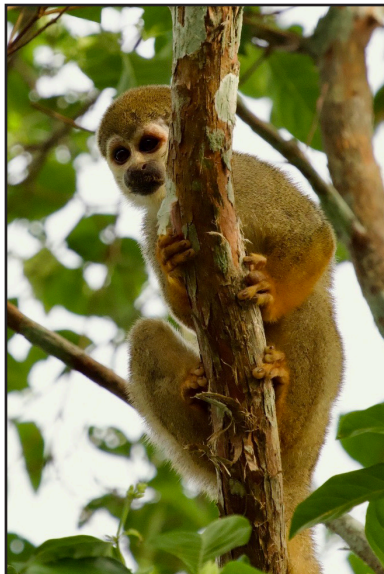
The Carantouan Spring, long known as a vital drinking fountain for the Andastes and their successors since prehistoric times, has been a beacon of natural beauty and historical importance. The new sign at the trailhead not only marks this significant spot but also serves as a poignant reminder of Katie's adventurous spirit and her profound connection to the trails and landscapes of Waverly.

As hikers continue to tread along the Forbidden Path, they are not just exploring a route marked on a map; they are partaking in a story that intertwines the past with the present, nature with humanity, and the memory of Katie with the timeless beauty of the Carantouan Spring.

The Forbidden Path is located at the intersection of Rt. 220 and 17C (Chemung St.). For more on the Carantouan Greenway visit www.carantouangreenway.org

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caught glimpses of wildlife, learned about the history and life in local villages, and explored the incredible biodiversity of the region. They will talk about highlights of their trip, illustrated by David's colorful photographs. Esther is a microbiology professor at Cornell University. David is a retired media archivist, who worked for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Both are avid birders and amateur naturalists. The dinner is Yanuzzi's Italian Feast buffet and cost is \$25 per person.



Katie's sisters: Nancy Martin and Julie McCarthy

Churches sponsor Lenten series

A Lenten seminar series sponsored by the Sayre Epiphany Roman Catholic Church and Waverly Valley United Presbyterian Church featured the Greenway's vice president, Marty Borko on March 6. The theme of it was "Care for God's Creation". He spoke of the conservation efforts, maintenance and community involvement required to keep our public green spaces available for the enjoyment of the community including hiking trails, a pond for fishing, birding, and educational tours.



Upper Susquehanna Coalition - Greenway Partner

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition excavator operator created three vernal pools at the Carantouan Greenway's Wildwood Preserve in the Town of Barton. Vernal pools, which are shallow isolated pools of water, are critical breeding grounds for threatened amphibians such as our wood frogs and spotted salamanders. These temporary pools provide reduced predator sites (fish) and a variety of solar exposure and developmental rates for the tadpoles and larvae. The project was only feasible with the cooperation of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Tioga County Soil and Water and the Carantouan Greenway. The Greenway invites the public to walk its trails and visit these newly seeded venues. Additionally, the USC offers many programs and forums to educate agencies and individuals in conservation practices, funding projects and advocating for clean water.



Greenway outreach display at USC forum

Watching the Rails

The Virginia rail is our more common rail at our Wildwood Reserve. Its laterally compressed body and protective forehead feathers allow it to push vegetation aside as it moves through the tight cattails and phragmites. It has a long orangey bill that it uses to extract insects and other invertebrates as well as some seeds. The throat has a reddish cast. Its long toes allow it to walk on the softer mud as it explores its wetland home. If one is fortunate during the breeding season one may come across a fuzzy black form of the bird,

which is its fledgling.

The lesser common rail is the Sora, which is more squat with a short yellow bill but also has black fledglings. It tends to feed more on seeds and other vegetation but does not hesitate to take insects and snails. Both of these species have been confirmed as breeders at Wildwood, with the Virginia having two broods. At Wildwood the Sora rail is recognized by its descending whinny whereas the Virginia rail is by its tick-it tick-it call. The Sora has a black mask, a grey neck and a short tail, which it often holds in an upright position. Its walk is similar to that of a chicken.



Photo credit Sandy Covington

Virginia rail



Photo credit Sandy Covington

Sora rail

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!

- Mighty Oak \$500/year Trailblazer \$25/year
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 Stargazer \$50/year **Renewing member** **New member**
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Gifts to Carantouan Greenway are fully tax deductible! (Tax ID Number 23-2750872)

Please send all contributions to Carantouan Greenway, P.O. Box 441, Sayre, PA 18840-0441
or P.O. Box 827, Waverly, NY 14892-0827 or on-line at carantouangreenway.org/joinonline



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