

River Talk

Newsletter of the Carantouan Greenway



Fall 2014

Fun for Kids - Fishing, Birds, and Birdhouses, Carantouan Greenway Hosts First Family Fun Day



On June 1st, the Carantouan Greenway hosted the first Family Fun Day, at the Wildwood Reserve.

The day's events were organized by Theresa Pipher and free of charge. Greenway President Marty Borko was on hand to discuss Wildwood's many natural resources, including local birds and trees, wildflowers, geology, the vernal pool, the large pond and other natural resources of the Greenway. The morning began with the Wildwood Pond Fishing Clinic. Avid local fisherman Rich Ward kicked off the event with an introductory tutorial on the basics of pond fishing, and was there to assist each of the 12 participating children in a successful catch and release. Later that day local artist Stephanie Mullen coordinated the Wildwood Arts Clinic, and assisted all participating children in decorating birdhouses with natural and ornate materials. Ralph Geiger generously donated the beautiful wooden boxes to the Greenway and the decorated boxes were in turn donated to Tioga Opportunities Department of Aging, which will find homes for the bird boxes, with bird loving seniors in the community.



Curious Minds

Who doesn't like a trip to the park? And if you learn something along the way all the better. Young learners from Little Sprouts Nursery School in Waverly were treated to a walk to Muldoon Park where Carantouan Greenway president Marty Borko presented interesting facts about birds to the children. Hundreds of questions ensued, all handled deftly by Marty.

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E-bird Challenge

The Carantouan Greenway, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit environmental education organization and land trust, has a website with an e-bird selection on its home page.

The e-bird listing is developed almost daily while a Carantouan Greenway member walks the trail for approximately 1.3 miles on the Greenway's Wildwood Reserve property in the Town of Barton. The sighted birds are reported to Cornell's Lab of Ornithology e-bird database and within minutes rolled over to the Greenway's website.

The challenge is to any individual, family, group or class in Bradford County, Pa, or Tioga or Chemung counties in NY. The Carantouan Greenway asks that 'the challenger' use the changing e-bird data from our website in any creative way; be that music, art, science, English, math, civics or an integrated manner.

The submission for recognition should be in the form of a 10-15 minute DVD or CD and sent to the Carantouan Greenway, PO Box 827, Waverly, NY 14892-0827. The Carantouan Greenway is offering recognition awards of \$300, \$150 and \$50 to the individual, family, group or class that presents the most creative utilization of the e-bird data.

The deadline for submission is April 15, 2015. Recognition would occur in May. Judging will be conducted by the Board, all decisions are final, and DVD/CDs will not be returned. Questions may be directed to Marty Borko at 607-565-2636.



Talk to the animals

The woods were invaded on the night of October 10th by furry and feathered animal characters at the home of President Marty Borko. Children and their family hiked around a path illuminated by tiki torches while encountering various costumed volunteers who spoke to the children, describing their food preferences, where they lived, and many other interesting facts about themselves.



Bill Hotchkiss

The Carantouan Greenway lost a dear friend at the end of August with the passing of Bill Hotchkiss. It was Bill, as the Town of Barton Supervisor, with whom I worked to secure a grant that included the expanded parking lot and sign for the Wildwood Nature Reserve. After the Upper Susquehanna Coalition constructed our vernal pool it was Bill's vernal pools from which we transferred wood-frog and spotted salamander eggs. When we needed resistant stakes to secure our telephone pole steps or an immediate need for a chain saw Bill was there. While most are unaware of Bill's public service, we the Carantouan Greenway take this time to say thanks and sadly note he will be dearly missed.

Turtlehead

Wildwood trails exhibit a good number of exotic as well as endemic or native flowers. For whatever reason this year presented 5 different plants scattered along our wetland trails. Turtlehead, or *Chelone glabra* as it is known scientifically, is named for its turtle-like flowers, which are white with a pinkish wash that resemble a turtle's head. The genus name *chelone*, named from Greek mythology, means turtle. The plant is a late summer blooming perennial with opposite toothed linear leaves. The irregular flowers with upper and lower lips are in a terminal spike with all its reproductive structures hidden from view.

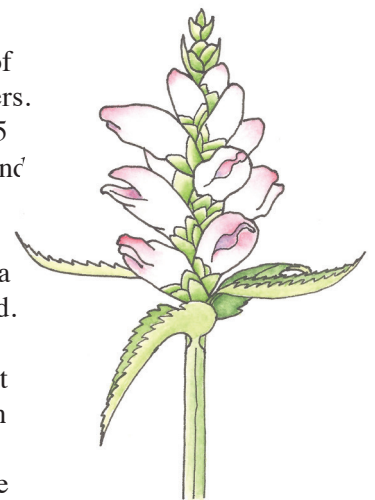


Illustration by Susanne Williams

Trail Maintenance

The Greenway relies on volunteers for all its operations, that includes maintaining the trails. Several times a year volunteers come together to weed whip, mow, and generally clean up. With many hands, in just a couple of hours weeds and briars are knocked back so visitors can enjoy an unfettered hike. Check out our Facebook page and the newspaper for announcements of upcoming trail maintenance events.



Photo by Joe Schmieg

Monarch Butterflies in Trouble

By John Palmer

Every year monarch butterflies stage one of the most extraordinary migrations in the animal world, flying upwards of 3000 miles from Canada to the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico. You've probably seen those amazing photos of millions of monarchs blanketing the fir trees there. While scientists still have not unlocked the mystery behind this amazing phenomenon, it may be coming to an end. Just a decade ago up to 1 billion monarchs made the journey, but every year the numbers decline with only 33 million migrating last year.

The primary reason behind the decline is the rampant use of herbicides in agriculture and in controlling roadside vegetation, specifically glyphosate, marketed by Monsanto as Roundup. Since the mid 1990 approval of Monsanto's Roundup Ready Soybeans, the use of glyphosate has increased 10 fold to 182 million pounds/year. In a classic dilemma, the strength and quantity of glyphosate increases as weeds become more resistant. Glyphosate kills milkweed, the only plant where monarchs lay their eggs and on which their larva feed, around farm fields and along roadways. Ironically this unique symbiosis may be the death knell for the monarch. To save the monarchs we will need to plant acres and acres of milkweed, create herbicide-free zones around farms and along roadways, and encourage counties and towns to use better practices to control roadside vegetation.

If you would like to get involved, learn more at www.letmonarchsfly.org.

Visit Us on Facebook

Thanks to board member and tech guru Jim Daly we now have a presence on Facebook. Now you'll have a way keep up to date on all our upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and happenings. Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/carantouan/>



Carantouan Greenway Sponsors Youth Photo Contest: Winning Photos Receive Local Gallery Showcase

The Carantouan Greenway is sponsoring a youth photo contest for photography enthusiasts ages 7-18. Pictures should be exclusive to landscape and wildlife; no people please. Black and white or color photos are accepted. Photos will be judged by the Greenway's Board of Directors. Award winning photos will earn an elite ribbon, and be presented in a Waverly Gallery Showcase location to be determined. Applicants should submit an 8 x 10 photo of a picture taken at either Waverly's Forbidden Path (located near Ted Clark's), or the Wildwood Reserve (located just past Stray Haven). One photo submission per person, please include the following information on the back of your picture: Photographer's name and

age, date-location picture was taken. Also needed is the contact information for the photographer's guardian, including name, address, phone-number, and e-mail.

8 x10 pictures should be mailed to the attention of Marty Borko, 17 Lyman Ave., Waverly NY, 14892, and will not be returned. All entries should be postmarked by October 30th. Questions may be directed to Marty Borko at 607-565-2636 / mborko@stny.rr.com. For more information on the Greenway's Wildwood Reserve and the Forbidden Path, including directions, visit <http://www.carantouangreenway.org/forbiddenpath.html>. Winners will be announced on the website in November 2014.

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
- Golden Eagle.....\$75/year
- Stargazer\$50/year
- Trailblazer\$25/year
- Other\$ _____

Renewing member **New member**

Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, and 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, P.O. Box 441, Sayre, PA 18840-0441
or P.O. Box 827, Waverly, NY 14892-0827 or on-line at carantouangreenway.org/joinonline



Carantouan Greenway

P.O. Box 441
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