

# River Talk

Newsletter of the Carantouan Greenway



Fall 2024

## '23-24 President's Report

This past year has been a very productive one for the Carantouan Greenway.

During the spring our partner from Penelec, Les, planted over 50 pitch pines in our pine woods. Thanks to funding by Tioga State Bank we have transferred the property gifted to us by Steve Sutryk to the Waverly Central School District for implementing conservation projects and access to the Chemung River. Waverly shop students inspected and repaired the footbridges on the Forbidden Path. In October over 20 Waverly agriculture students planted 150 woody trees and shrubs provided by Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District on our back alfalfa field to prevent erosion, capture carbon and provide a corridor of fruit producing specimens for wildlife.

Working with federal and local governments we were successful in securing a nationally recognized name for the stream from Wildwood. We are currently winding up a Hooker grant being used to create and install educational signage about birch trees. All of the above is supplemental to our every day maintaining trails, leading field trips, managing beavers and making evening presentations for various groups. As

*Con'd, pg 2...President's Message*

*“As an organization we could not succeed were it not for our partners.”*



## Fall Hike

It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood of Wildwood Nature Reserve on Oct. 27th. Visitors were led through the trails guided with naturalist Marty Borko highlighting facts about the flora and fauna that abounds there. He explained one way to distinguish between maples, as the leaves disappear in the fall, is that the Norway maple has a rounded bud whereas the sugar maple has a longer bud. The leaf scar of a black walnut resemble that of a monkey's face. And the reason the trembling aspens leaves tremble is due to their flat stem that allows them to turn easily with the wind. He also pointed out the many projects completed at the Greenway such as vernal pools, Leopold benches, and many plantings of new trees and shrubs thanks to the generosity of partners from the community that enrich the public's enjoyment of the nature reserve.

## Fungus Facts

Chicken of the Woods, aka *Laetiporus* its Generic name meaning light pores as it releases its spores through brightly colored tubes instead of gills. More common in the Fall than the Spring but occurs at Wildwood in a saprophytic form mostly on oaks and black cherry. Its growth form is a layered cluster, often a foot or more across and is edible with the recommendation to be sautéed in butter. No need to wrap it in the overlying grape leaves.







## Penelec Supports Carantouan Greenway With New Trees

Earlier this year, Carantouan Greenway's Wildwood Reserve in the town of Barton was enriched by the addition of 64 pitch pine seedlings donated and planted by Les Wilber of Penelec's Green Team of employee volunteers. The growth of these pines will improve the probability that the pine woods will continue to serve as a home for nesting great-horned owls and a breeding population of the pine warbler.

The Carantouan Greenway tree planting demonstrates FirstEnergy's continued commitment to the environment and the communities served by its electric utilities, including Penelec. Since starting this initiative, FirstEnergy has planted more than 67,000 trees across its service territory. FirstEnergy's 2024 goal is to plant 25,000 trees.

## Dam Maintenance

Woody vegetation that grows on an earthen dam threatens the integrity of its structure and must be removed. This spring the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and Tioga County Soil and Water brought its brush masticator to clear and protect Carantouan Greenway's dam for future generations of fishers, walkers and birders to enjoy the dam and its connected trails.



## She Bird

A female red-winged blackbird is heavily streaked with brown, a white wing-bar with a slightly colored orange throat resting its head on a waxy branch of boxwood. The female red-winged blackbird is most often misidentified as a sparrow and it is ironic that she is resting on our only maple tree with a pinnately compound leaf. The maple's winged fruit shows best at the bottom of the photo. The male red-winged black bird is black but displays an orange shoulder patch in an effort to attract females and fend off males. If the male has selected a good breeding territory to defend he may have several females to mate with; a bad territory and he may have none. Many thanks to local photographer Kevin O'Toole for sharing his photographs.



## President's Message (con'd from page 1)

an organization we could not succeed were it not for our partners; Penelec, Tioga County Soil and Water District, Waverly School District, Upper Susquehanna Coalition, granting agencies, our board members and our public supporters who believe in what we do.

It costs the Carantouan Greenway almost \$3,000 yearly just to exist. Most of it goes to insurance companies with a small amount for audit-type verification. We truly need and appreciate the support of our community. If you have not joined us lately, please do so now.

With much thanks, Marty Borko, president

## All About Arrowwood



The opposite-leaved shrub *Viburnum dentatum*, most often referred to as Arrowwood, produces a flat cluster of white flowers in the spring that develop into deep blue drupes that have a single pit similar to a cherry fruit by mid-summer. Arrowwood prefers sunlight

and wet soil. Its characteristic early fruit maturation provides summer sustenance for many birds as evidenced by the blue splash and single seed resting on the upper surface of Wildwood's common wetland shrub, silky dogwood. One can contrast silky dogwood's smooth leaf margin with arrowwood's margin that is heavily toothed (dentate). It is believed that in order for many trees and shrubs that produce drupes (single pit) that the pit has to pass through the digestive tract of some animal to facilitate its germination.



## Agriculture students plant trees

Thanks to Waverly High School and Middle School agriculture students, the Wildwood Nature Reserve in Town of Barton will have 150 new native trees and shrubs to complement the existing greenery. Tioga Soil and Water Conservation District donated the plants, including black cherry, sugar maple, hackberry, pin oak, serviceberry, spicebush and mulberry, to create a new border along the alfalfa field trail. The new additions will provide varied habitat for hikers to explore as well as a source of good food and cover for wildlife. Additionally it provides a buffer to reduce runoff from the field into Wildwood Pond. TSWCD representative Heather Guiliford was on hand to instruct the students with a detailed method for planting. With shovels and hammers in hand and under the guidance of Waverly agriculture teachers Miranda Palmer and Chandra Stanley, in about two hours students had successfully completed the planting.

According to Ms. Palmer, "Students in our community are participating in tree planting experiences to better understand their environmental impact and the positive effects such initiatives can have

on the community. These activities are designed to boost environmental awareness among students, particularly given the significance of our local watershed, where creeks and tributaries ultimately feed into the Susquehanna River. This project is a meaningful way for students to see the full cycle of environmental stewardship."



## Newly Named Wildwood Creek

There's a stream that departs from the pond at the Wildwood Reserve that runs to the Susquehanna River. We discovered that the stream had no official name and so the question was poised could or should it be named. Turns out the answer is yes. The first step was applying to the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) and substantiating our request to name it such. By combing through museum and historical society archives we authenticated the region was known as Wildwood. Additionally we sought and received endorsement from local government of Athens Township and Town of Barton; county government in Bradford and Tioga counties; and Native American councils. Once the BGN approved it, it was added to the national GIS mapping system. Any new map created will now include the official name of this stream, Wildwood Creek.



## 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  
 Golden Eagle..... \$75/year       Other ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 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](http://carantouangreenway.org/joinonline)



## Carantouan Greenway

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

# GIVING TUESDAY

## DEC. 3

*is only a few weeks  
away. Please remember to  
renew or donate.*