

# River Talk

Newsletter of the Carantouan Greenway



Fall 2018

## The Overlooked Colors of Fall

*It's not just trees that give us the striking colors of fall, but if you look closely Mother Nature supplies other players to light up the autumn days.*

Turtlehead, *Chelone glabra*, is poking its terminal spike of white light-pinkish flowers through a maze of dense vegetation. Its cluster of flowers hide the 4 stamens of unequal size residing in its irregular 5-petaled tubes.

The arrow shaped leaves are those of a morning glory. The lemon yellow is



that of our most common nectar-providing fall flower, the Canada goldenrod. The goldenrod consists of clusters of dense tiny flowers called florets. It, like turtlehead, is a perennial. It is the Canada goldenrod, which one may see hosting the goldenrod gall-ball. Inside there is the larva of a gorgeous fly. The bright orange belongs to the annual known as jewel weed or touch-me-not, *Impatiens biflora*. In the photo there are few

long projections which are the young fruit capsules that give touch-me-not its name. When only lightly touched the mature capsule will spring open releasing its seeds. The seeds are edible and taste a bit like walnut.



*This is a Russula, a common fall mushroom that is identified by its maroon cap, gills and a uniformly wide stipe or stem.*

## President's Message

In 1872 Yellowstone National Park was created. The action was generated by photographs of buffalo, bears, canyons and inspiring landscapes and the development of a foresighted policy to protect lands that may otherwise be lost forever.

Our National Parks are being threatened by overuse and lack of sufficient funding to protect them for generations yet to come. What can we do? WE, as responsible citizens, can support actions to protect them and lobby for increased funding. However, we can not expect others to join us in this fight if our fellow citizens are unaware of what is happening and if they do not have any personal experience with the outdoor environment. That is where we come in.

The Carantouan Greenway offers the public opportunities to visit local protected sites with our Forbidden Path and Wildwood Reserve as well as partnering to connect the Destiny Kinal Loop with the Susquehanna river trail being developed from Athens to Sayre. The opportunity to hear the sounds of wind and rain or occasional running water; the sounds of birds or the sights of rabbits and squirrels or the mink or otter. This is the connection that we provide and we appreciate our membership support that makes this possible.

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Marty Borko

# Mosquitoes 2018



The spring and summer of 2018 have been wet and hurricane Florence only made our situation worse. With lots of water filling vernal pools, old tires, tree holes and the many other stagnant water locations our mosquito population reached very large numbers this year.

The mosquitos are insects which means that they, normally as adults, have 6 legs, 4 wings and various mouth parts. Mosquitos differ somewhat from the norm as their hind pair of wings has been reduced (as it is in all flies) to a pair of halteres which act as gyroscopes to help them in flight. Mosquitos have piercing and sucking mouth parts with knife-like mandible and maxillae that drill in for the blood meal while secreting saliva to keep our blood from clotting. It is only the female mosquito that searches for us using body temperature and carbon dioxide levels to find that blood meal which provides the protein she needs for successful egg production. All eggs are laid either singly or in rafts, depending on the Genus, in the water or at a site that should be soon flooded.

Mosquitos are carriers of both the West Nile virus, the yellow fever virus as well as malaria, which happens to be the most common disease in the world. As climate change continues to warm the globe we can expect to see the mosquito species that serve as vectors for the latter two diseases to show up. At the moment New York State monitors for West Nile Virus as well as encephalitis. An interesting fact is that several of the signers of the Declaration of Independence died of mosquito borne yellow fever.

## Phantom crane fly

Phantom Crane Fly larvae have been identified in the Greenway's vernal pool during the presentation of our educational programs. The larvae feed on the detritus in the pool's bottom. Several of the adults have been enjoyed this late summer on Wildwood's trails. The adult, typical of adult crane flies, does not feed and its buoyant black and white body seems to float in the air.



## Sierra Club hikes Greenway

This summer Greenway president and naturalist Marty Borko welcomed members of the Susquehanna Group of the Sierra Club to Wildwood Nature Preserve. Above, he explains that after removing invasive Japanese honeysuckle, two varieties of dogbane returned to the forest floor. Visitors were treated to fascinating facts of plants, insects and habitat that make up the nature preserve.

## Pollinators

You may remember Colleen Wolpert, our guest speaker at the annual dinner in 2016. She is an expert on creating gardens and backyards that provide habitat for butterflies and moths. In June she gave a presentation at Wildwood describing the importance of understanding all stages of their life cycle: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) and imago (adult).

As a curious observer of nature on her property and in her community, Colleen enjoys sharing the knowledge she has accumulated about improving habitat for a wide variety of insects and the wildlife.

## How You Can Help Keep the Green in Greenway

### 2018 Robert Sullivan Incentive Grant Program

The Greenway has a rare opportunity to receive a significant cash endowment. The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT), through the Robert Sullivan Grant Program, is challenging Carantouan Greenway and other Agency nonprofit endowment partners with an exciting opportunity to match all endowment fund contributions up to \$5,000! The Carantouan Board is asking for your generous support to help raise the full \$5,000 amount, which would result in an increase of \$10,000 to our endowment fund! Donate today to insure that Carantouan Greenway is able to continue it's work to educate and connect our local communities to their natural resources by providing recreational opportunities and a variety of educational and outreach programs for all ages, long into the future. A strong endowment fund is critical for the long-term success of the organization, providing financial security, an opportunity for donors to leave a legacy, and a steady revenue stream from the fund earnings. Donations may be made via our website at [www.carantouangreenway.org](http://www.carantouangreenway.org). Click on the Robert Sullivan Grant link. Checks may be mailed to the Greenway (P.O. Box 441, Sayre, PA 18840), noting Sullivan Grant on the memo line. We appreciate all our members do to help us keep the Greenway a vital part of the community.



*Two monarch butterfly caterpillars dine on swamp milkweed found at Wildwood Nature Preserve.*

## Upcoming Events

### 2019 run moves to Earth Day

Our annual spring 4K run has been scheduled for Saturday, April 27. Runners will appreciate the warmer temperatures. Health-related prizes and refreshments will be a part of the event. Registration will be available on our website.

## Grants Make Programs Possible

The Greenway provides a variety of educational and outreach programs for all ages, with an enthusiastic core group of board members and volunteers. Our programs include field trips with a trained naturalist to help participants learn about local birds, trees wildflowers, geology, vernal pools, and other natural resources; a fishing clinic and a bird house decorating project for kids; public forums given by local and regional experts covering topics such ticks and Lyme disease, Marcellus Shale gas drilling, solar energy and climate change; presentations to local clubs, schools, and other organizations on topics such as the The 40th Anniversary of Earth Day and All About Bones. Thanks to a very talented and dedicated board and many generous partners, Carantouan Greenway has secured several grants to benefit local communities in the following ways:

- The Youth Ticks and Lyme Disease Educational Awareness Campaign educated over thirteen-hundred students and families, and created extensive resources on our website.
- The Park Mapping Project allowed Carantouan and partners to create digital maps of Wildwood Reserve, The Forbidden Path, Waverly Glen, and Two Rivers State Park trails for access by mobile devices.
- The creation of a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat for Senior Residential Living at Muldoon Gardens in Waverly.
- The development of a Youth Butterfly Life-cycle Curriculum Enrichment Program at Waverly elementary schools.
- Birdhouse design projects by the Owego-Apalachin Elementary, Athens High, and Notre Dame High School art classes, to benefit senior bird lovers.

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**
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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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