

River Talk

Newsletter of the Carantouan Greenway



Spring 2017

MFTF Funds Greenway for GIS-Park Mapping

Access interesting nature facts on your mobile device as you hike the trails.

With funding from the Mildred Faulkner Truman Foundation (MFTF), the Carantouan Greenway is developing the local Park Mapping Project, designed to address the growing need of community park visitors in Tioga County to be “connected” to their surrounding



Participants learned how to map and records points of interest using GIS mapping.

parks via mobile devices. Through the establishment of GIS-based maps for the parks, the project will establish and map GPS coordinates for native plant collections, bike paths, running and hiking trails and featured park points-of-interest. The project will serve as both an education and safety based resource for park visitors.

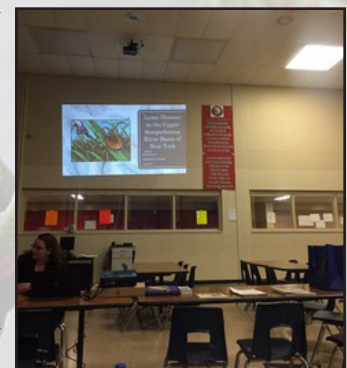
The ESRI geographic information system (GIS) software to be used for this project supports a digital location platform, resulting in park map accessibility via any mobile device. The Carantouan Greenway is working with Tioga County stakeholders, including the Waverly Recreation, Tioga County Tourism and Friends of Two Rivers State Park in Waverly, to create maps of relevance to users of the Waverly Glen, Two Rivers State Park and Wildwood Reserve in Barton. As captured in the picture, MFTF-grant funded Androids and software were used to map hiking and biking trails at Two Rivers State Park’s “I Love My Park Day”, on May 6th. 🐾

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Lyme Disease is Focus of Annual Dinner Meeting

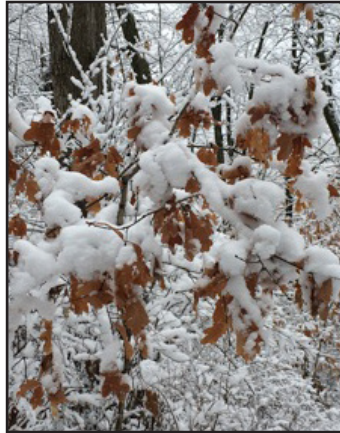
April 25 brought a cadre of Greenway members out to hear Mandy Roome from Binghamton University speak on her findings from research conducted as a Ph.D student there. She brought to light that the research done by she and her peers shows our area has a relatively high rate of ticks that carry Lyme disease. Infection occurs after a deer tick has taken a blood meal from an infected animal, such as the white-footed mouse. It has been believed that deer are the primary vector for passing the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria but her research showed that the white-footed deer mouse, which is found in abundance in more suburban and residential areas, is more likely the vector. The higher the density of people, the higher the density of Lyme disease is. It is lower in forested areas where predators keep the population of mice under control. 🐾



Editor's Note: Since our last newsletter in the fall, we've been busy with activities and observations. We hope you enjoy the reporting of late fall, winter and early spring events.

Leaf-fall

We live in what is known as the Eastern Deciduous Forest. Deciduous referring to annual leaf-fall and forest because the natural vegetation would be dominated by trees. Our most common trees locally would be the oaks, hickories, maples and cherry. The leaf-fall is considered an adaptation to the winter drought when the ground is frozen and water is therefore



Oak tree

not available for growth. In the tropics leaf-fall occurs in preparation for drought and leaves reappear for the rainy season. In both cases the process involves the formation of a waxy protective layer, the cutting off the petiole's vessels serving the leaf followed by wind and rain dislodging its contact with the stem. For whatever reason, which I do not necessarily understand, there are trees that hold non-photosynthetic leaves long into the winter season. This



Muscle wood

is particularly true of oaks, especially young ones, and an understory tree, musclewood. Both may be seen at Wildwood with their winter foliage covered in snow. Another species not seen at Wildwood with similar behavior is the American beech. 🐾

Winter fruits

Wildwood has a good mix of herbs, vines, shrubs and trees. The wild grape has been and continues to be a prolific provider of its purple berries. The white poison ivy fruits have regularly been devoured by chickadees, titmice and woodpeckers. The purple fruits of dentate-leaved viburnum along with the fruits of the silky dogwood



Sumac fruit

have all been stable food items going into winter; just not this year. By mid Fall all of these food sources had been stripped of their fruits. The remaining sources throughout the winter months have been the box elder whose samara fruits are still hanging from this odd pinnately-leaved maple tree and the most dependable staghorn sumac. The



Box elder

fuzzy red drupes of the sumac stand erect in dense panicles. They have been visited all winter by chickadees, titmice and bluebirds. With climate change we do not know what to expect. What species will be prolific next year? All we can do is wait and watch for nature to do its thing. 🐾

'Under Our Skin' Film on Lyme Disease

The Greenway hosted a showing of the award-winning documentary, "Under Our Skin" with Valley Lyme Disease Support Group at the Sayre Library on May 25. It brings to light the hidden story of Lyme, which has been described as one of the most serious and controversial epidemics of our time. The number of people infected with Lyme disease is growing exponentially. 🐾

Bike Club finds geocache at Wildwood

Members of the Southern Tier Bike Club were treated to a guided hike highlighting the diversity of flora and fauna at the Wildwood Nature Reserve on Shepard Road in Waverly on Dec. 6. Marty Borko led the group. He pointed out various species of trees tagged with numbers. These numbers correlate to a guide that can be accessed on the Greenway's website that provides further information about each species. He also described some of the creatures that inhabit the area and brought along mounted specimens of mice, moles, and shrews so that the hikers could examine them closely. Club members were seeking a geocache. Geocaching is an outdoor activity where participants search for a container, usually holding a log book that one can enter their name into noting they have discovered the geocache's location, or perhaps some little inexpensive item to exchange in the container. The container is located by using GPS coordinates on mobile devices like smart phones. It's a great way to add a little mystery to your hike. 🐾



CG Partners with Two Rivers for "Love My Park" Day



On Saturday, May 6th, the event "I Love My Park Day" took place across parks in New York State. Volunteers came together locally at the Waverly Glen on this day to show their love of our local parks. Some of the activities from that day included: park/trail clean up and maintenance, birdhouse painting, and digital trail mapping. The Carantouan Greenway was present to educate and share information on staying safe from ticks while utilizing our parks. 🐾

Earth Day Tree Planting

Celebrating Mother Earth. We often marvel at her strength and majesty. But there are times, too, when she needs a hand. The Piney Woods section of Wildwood had become infested with the invasive species, Japanese honeysuckle. Last fall a group of volunteers ripped up the honeysuckle and this Earth Day another group of volunteers planted native trees and shrubs including dogwood and sycamore, two native species. 🐾

4K Run Brings Happy Runners...and Happy Winners



Runners and walkers turned out March 19th for the Cloverleaf 4K. The temperate weather was perfect for a spring run as participants transcended and descended the field and wood trails. Anyone who had registered had their name entered into a drawing to win prizes. Community businesses generously donated a multitude of prizes including gym memberships, apparel and nature-themed items just to name a few. 🐾



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**
- I would like to receive the newsletter via email. Email address _____
- I prefer to receive the newsletter in the mail.
- I prefer not to receive the newsletter.

Name _____

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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



Carantouan Greenway

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