

River Talk

Newsletter of the Carantouan Greenway



Summer 2016

GRANTED

As a nonprofit we rely on grants to help achieve our mission and vision. We have had the extreme fortune of being awarded several grants that have enabled us to provide educational experiences to the public, bring awareness of the environment, and to enhance our surroundings.

One such grant was from the Mildred Faulkner Truman Foundation. In response to the growing public health concern for Lyme disease, which accompanies the growing tick population in our region, the Carantouan Greenway requested funding for a Ticks and Lyme Disease Educational Awareness Campaign. The campaign was designed to provide digital, print and signage informational resources to Tioga County residents, to assist in developing strategies for prevention and management of tick bites and Lyme disease. This grant funded the creation of four signs depicting the 2-year life cycle of the black-legged deer tick. The signs were strategically placed in areas frequented by hikers and park enthusiasts. One is located at the Wildwood Nature Preserve on Shepard Road. Three were donated; one each at the Waverly



Board members Sue Williams (center) and Theresa Pipher (right) present one of the tick life cycle signs to Waterman Conservation board member Mary Ann Cascarino (left).

Glen, East Waverly Park, and Waterman Conservation in Apalachin. Board members Theresa Pipher worked tirelessly to write and secure the grants while Sue Williams created the illustration for the sign.

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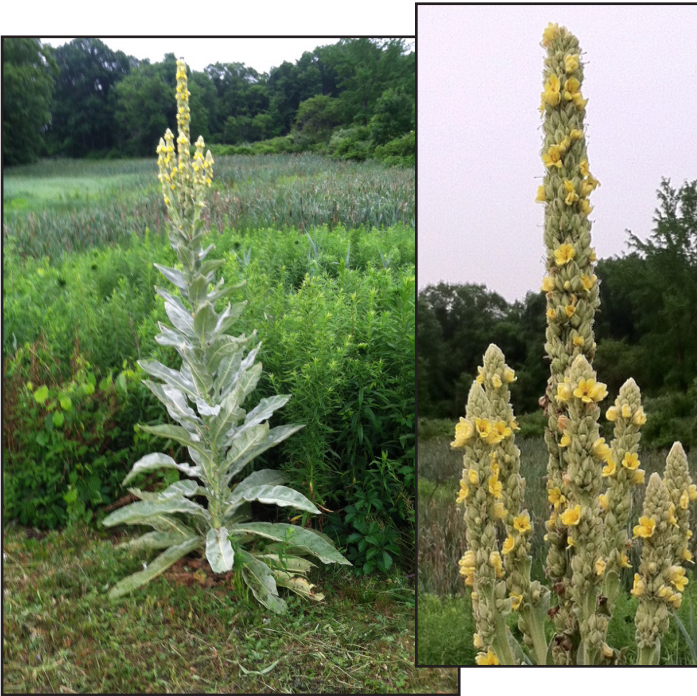
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Carantouan Greenway Collaborates with Cornell on Butterfly Curriculum Enrichment

Researchers from Cornell University Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology made a spring visit to aspiring youth scientists at Waverly's Elm Street School. Cornell's Agrawal Lab studies the ecology and evolution of plant-insect interactions, with a focus on community ecology, coevolution, and chemically-mediated interactions. These topics were the focus of the presentation to the 3rd grade class, specific to butterflies and their host plants. The project was funded by the Floyd Hooker Estate Fund of the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers. Additionally, the project includes the procurement of classroom educational supplies, digital resources specific to native plants, butterfly facts and wildlife habitat restoration, an on-site wildlife garden and certification of the garden by the National Wildlife Federation as an Official Wildlife Habitat. For more information, visit "Butterflies – Pollinators" at www.carantouangreenway.org. We would like to send out a big thank you to Laura Hoppe for assistance in garden maintenance. 🐛

Mullein

Common mullein, technically known as *Verbascum thapsus*, is a member of the figwort family. It is an introduced species otherwise known as an exotic biennial which produces a whorled rosette of very hairy or tomentose foliage in its first year of growth. They do exceedingly well in disturbed areas and produce a long flowering stalk in its second year of life. The plant produces a dense spike of slightly irregular yellow flowers. A close look presents you with 5 bright orange anthers and a bright green stigmatic cap. The anthers are of different sizes with the smaller ones being more tomentose and lying deeper in the flower. Take a closer look the next time you see it, it's truly candy for the eyes. 🐝



An eye-catching example of mullein at the Wildwood Preserve.

SUNY Student Contributes to Lyme Disease Awareness

Doctoral student Amanda Roome and others studying at SUNY Binghamton University's Biomedical Anthropology Program have been interested in behavioral risk of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. After discovering this, and the fact that the group has a research site in Waverly at Two Rivers State Park, we asked them to collaborate on the tick and Lyme project with us. Amanda developed the web resource page and collaborated with board member Theresa Pipher on the informational brochure. The CG procured over 500 of these tick-Lyme informational brochures, and have distributed many of them to A Hope for Lyme and to Binghamton University's Garruto group, which ensures the information is distributed to a targeted group, as well as Waterman Conservation. The brochure is available for download at our website. 🐝

Macro What?

The Carantouan Greenway participated in a NYS DEC water sampling of macroinvertebrates in Lockwood on Saturday July 23 at 10 am. Marty Borko, the Carantouan Greenway's VP, is a DEC registered coordinator for the WAVE (Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators) program. Macroinvertebrates in the stream were sampled, identified with a subsample sent to Albany for verification. The data collected will be used to augment the work of the NYS DEC Stream Biomonitoring program, which maintains a state inventory of stream water quality. 🐝

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Keep up to date on all our upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and happenings and even our newsletter. Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/carantouan/> 🐝



Upcoming Events

Pollinators 101

Join the Unitarian Universalist Church and Project Grow as they co-sponsor the Greenway's Marty Borko for a lively presentation illuminating the function of pollination. What is its role? How did we end up with flowers? How did reproduction change from mosses, ferns and pine trees to orchids that look like insects? Unitarian Universalist Church Athens, 112 North St., Oct 6 at 7 p.m.

Water quality sampling

You'll get a second chance to assist with collecting water samples searching for macroinvertebrates that signal the health of Cayuta Creek. The fun begins at 10 a.m. on Sept. 18 at the Lockwood pavilion on Rt. 34. Participants will view specimens through a microscope while Marty Borko describes what they are and what role they play in forecasting the health of a stream.

Climate Change

The snowy winter of 2015-16 hardly existed with very little snow and very warm temperatures. This spring has been dry and our vernal pools disappeared before we could use them for educational purposes. This summer continues to be very dry and our streams and ground water are very low. It has been predicted by forest specialists that there will be a substantial change in forest make-up with losses of maples and cherries and an increase in oaks and hickories, the latter having deeper root systems. Need I remind anyone of our loss of stately elms along with American chestnut with our present challenges of the emerald ash borer and the hemlock woolly adelgids. We have to ask ourselves what role we have played in this scene? Environmental Stability comes with diversity and we are destroying it one species at a time. What will we leave for our grandchildren? 🌿



A summer day in the completed garden at Muldoon Garden apartment complex.

Granted (continued from page 1)

Finally, the Greenway was awarded a grant from the Tioga County Senior Citizen Foundation in support of wildlife habitat development for senior residential living. Many seniors leave behind their own gardens, perennial beds, and green space in exchange for residential living. With hard work contributed by volunteers and residents, this lovely garden has come to fruition, to be enjoyed by many for years to come. It has been certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. 🌿



Runners took to the trails during the Greenway's annual run.

Another Successful 4K Trail Run This Spring

March 19 brought a crisp spring morning and a cadre of eager runners ready to take on the challenge of running the trails of the Wildwood Nature Preserve on Shepard Road on the outskirts of Waverly. This year saw the addition of a new and challenging trail on the east side of the preserve. As in the past all runners were eligible to participate in drawings for fabulous prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. Plans are underway for next year's run. 🌿

Eastern Metal/USA Sign Makes Donation

Following an incident of finding campers and campfires at the preserve on Shepard Road this spring, the board determined to erect a sign outlining what was and what was not allowed on the property. The Greenway was fortunate to receive a custom-made sign from Eastern Metal/USA Sign of Elmira to inform visitors of such, and we thank them. 🌿



Greenway President John Palmer presents new sign.

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 _____

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

Sayre, PA 18840-0441

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