



DYKEN POND-ERINGS

A joint newsletter of the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center
and the Friends of Dyken Pond

November 2016

Friends Open New Trail at Newcomb Pond

The Friends held a ribbon cutting ceremony (the ribbon was actually an evergreen garland, but you get the idea) on September 24 to officially celebrate the Friends' most recent land acquisitions and to open the new trail on these lands. 50 supporters and outdoor enthusiasts attended and had the opportunity to walk the new trail. Kathy Jimino, Rensselaer County Executive, spoke about the wonderful recreational and educational resource these lands serve for the Center and for the community at large. After the ceremony and hike, cake was served in honor of the Friends' 25th anniversary.

The new trail crosses the new Newcomb Pond parcels -- 40 acres acquired in 2014 and 56 acres in 2015 -- and connects the Spring Trail with the Old Road Trail. The trail was made by Nate Jamison for his Eagle Scout project. At one point along the trail, you can stand on the shore of Newcomb Pond and see three beaver lodges lined up one behind the other. A spur trail heads to the north end of the pond, and with care one can cross the beaver dam for more great views of the pond.

Part of the trail crosses land owned by Rachel Riemann who has granted a trail right-of-way that allows the public to complete a loop between the Center's parking lot and Newcomb Pond. A special appreciation goes out to Rachel for generously opening her land for all to enjoy.

You can support the trail and the other work of the Friends by buying a personalized trail marker. [Click here for details](#)

As reported in the Spring issue, the Friends received a \$53,000 grant from New York State to cover half the acquisition costs of the second Newcomb Pond parcel. We had a rigorous appraisal done and submitted to the State, and are waiting for the grant funds to be disbursed to us shortly. In the meantime, we have paid back half of the bridge loan from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, and will pay back the remainder once the grant funds are received from the State.

Spring Trail Parcel Donated to the Friends

Last December, Warren Broderick donated to the Friends 33 acres on the north side of Dyken Pond Road that include the western portion of the Spring Trail. Warren has diligently maintained the trail over the years, and always welcomed visitors to the Center to enjoy it. The Friends thank Warren greatly for his generosity, and will continue his legacy of keeping the land open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing.



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Ribbon cutting for the new trail

Fall Foliage:

Why do leaves change color?

Trees are preparing for winter, dropping their leaves and storing energy in their roots. Before leaves drop off, the chlorophyll in the leaves



breaks down, and the green color fades. This allows other pigments to show through, which are present all year but are masked by the green pigments of chlorophyll.



Ask the Naturalist

Am I really seeing Jellyfish in Dyken Pond or are my eyes playing tricks on me?

Yes! Well sort of. Freshwater jellyfish, *Craspedacusta sowerbii* are not exactly true jellyfish, but hydrozoa. They are in the same family as the common hydra, but look very similar to marine jellyfish and therefore get the name, freshwater jellyfish.

These jellies are translucent and roughly the size of a quarter when fully grown. They use small tentacles to capture prey (just like marine jellyfish) and feed off of zooplankton. They do this by using stinging cells to paralyze macroinvertebrates. Do not worry though, no studies have shown that they can sting or cause harm to people. Freshwater jellyfish can be found in lakes, man-made reservoirs, quarries and rivers with very little current. Typically, they can only be seen in late summer when the water is warmest and food is most abundant. At Dyken Pond Center we have been seeing them at the end of every summer for the last 3 years in mass groups called blooms.

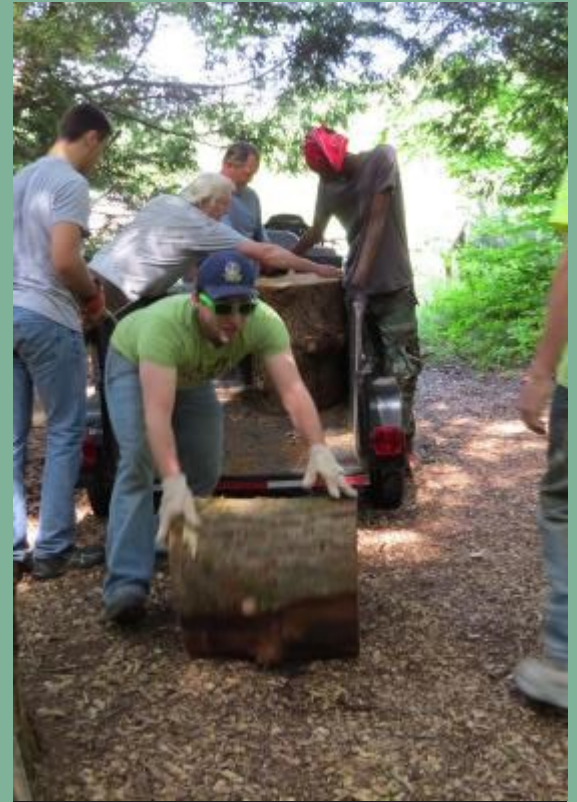
Freshwater jellyfish are still rather mysterious to scientists and are being studied across the country. For more information and a place to submit freshwater jellyfish observations please visit: freshwaterjellyfish.org.

Season Highlights

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Barefoot bogwalk with SOLA campers



Building new benches in the Amphitheater



Harris Hawk brought by Falconer Jeff Ford for both Summer camp and the public.



Red Fox picture captured by Ian Keefe



SOLA 2016 Group shot



Archery

How Can I Get Involved? Become a Member!

A not-for-profit organization, the Friends of the Dyken Pond Center, Ltd. was created in 1991 to be a support group for the Center. It is designed to enhance the education, research, and appreciation of the natural resources found at the Center. Your membership in this organization will sponsor the continued variety of public education programs. **Benefits-** As a friend of Dyken Pond you will receive a discount on all programs and special promotions, invitations to special Dyken Pond events, notice of workshops, and our heartfelt thanks!

Call the Center for more information at (518) 658-2055 or email: president@dykenpond.org

[Friends of Dyken Pond Membership Form](#)

New Trails Committee and Fundraising Committee Forming:

Interested in trails, land protection or helping to strengthen our organization through fundraising? Join a committee! We need dedicated folks who have a few hours to spare each month. Make a difference in your spare time and have some fun at the same time. What could be better? Please contact Len Tremblay at: president@dykenpond.org or Lisa Hoyt at dykenpond@dykenpond.org.

Upcoming Events

November SuperMoon Hikes:

Sunday, November 13, 2:30 until dark

Monday, November 14, 3:30 until dark

We'll hike for about 3 miles and return to watch the moon rise over the lake as we enjoy a campfire. The November moon is a SuperMoon because it will be at perigee (closest to the Earth in its orbit). This moon will appear brighter and larger than other full moons. This is the largest full moon to be seen in decades and will not be seen at this size for another 20 years.

If you want to skip the hike and attend the viewing, we will be down by the water at dusk with the moon expecting to rise around sunset. Bring a snack and your own beverage plus lighting for the return to your vehicles.

Thursday Trek: December 8 2—4pm Hike about 2.5 miles on the new Newcomb Pond trail.

Annual Yule Log Tradition

Sunday, December 11, 2016 1pm – 4pm

We start the afternoon by sharing the traditional story of the Yule Log and the science of the Winter Solstice. Folks will be given a few hints and then it's up to you to find the hidden Yule Log. Once found, it will be carried back and enjoyed at the outdoor campfire. David Muska will be on hand to demonstrate how to start a fire by friction (find out if you really can start a fire with two sticks!) Holiday crafts and greens will be available to make. People of all ages are encouraged to come out to this free, informal program and don't forget to bring your sleds! Hot chocolate and light snacks will be provided and feel free to bring your own snacks to share.

Friends of Dyken Pond Center, LTD. Annual Financial Report 2015

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Expense	
00011 · Internal Accounting	0.00
60900 · NYS Filing Fees	50.00
62100 · Contract Services	
62110 · Accounting Fees	820.00
62140 · Legal Fees	1,297.00
62100 · Contract Services - Other	600.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	2,717.00
62800 · Facilities and Equipment	
62850 · Property Taxes	639.13
Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment	639.13
65000 · Operations	
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Reference	56.08
65015 · Bank Fees	20.96
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	409.31
65030 · Printing and Copying	401.46
65040 · Supplies	6,177.29
65050 · Telephone, Telecommunications	171.00
65060 · Fundraising Expenses	3,414.21
65070 · Program Expenses	4,469.40
65090 · Miscellaneous	20.00
65000 · Operations - Other	2,357.79
Total 65000 · Operations	17,497.50
65110 · Advertising Expenses	244.88
65150 · Memberships and Dues	457.00
65170 · Staff Development	487.70
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	-43.25
68300 · Travel and Meetings	
68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	190.00
Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings	190.00
Total Expense	22,239.96

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income	
43300 · Direct Public Grants	-329.74
43400 · Direct Public Support	
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	29,820.70
43400 · Direct Public Support - Other	4,301.26
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	34,121.96
45000 · Investments	
45040 · Bank Interest	66.12
Total 45000 · Investments	66.12
47100 · Fundraising Income	5,869.75
47200 · Program Income	
47251 · Alcott	520.00
47260 · SOLA	15,890.00
47200 · Program Income - Other	270.00
Total 47200 · Program Income	16,680.00
Total Income	56,408.09

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
00001 · Petty Cash	88.99
00101 · Sefcu Regular Savings (\$1)	89.93
00102 · Sefcu Preferred Savings (\$2)	30,725.40
00109 · Sefcu Checking (\$9)	14,553.96
00110 · CD - 1119	829.67
00115 · Escrow account	40,000.00
Total Checking/Savings	86,287.95
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Undeposited Funds	4,233.00
Total Other Current Assets	4,233.00
Total Current Assets	90,520.95

The 2016 Holiday Wreath Sale



Balsam Fir Wreaths For Sale

18" Wreath Decorated with a hand-made Dyken Pond collectible nature ornament, pine cones, berries, and a red bow for just \$20

Larger Wreath Sizes Available.

Pre-Orders must be Received by Monday 11/14

Pick-Up Options: Saturday 11/19 at the center 12-2 PM
Monday 11/21 IN TROY 9 AM – 1pm (Troy pick-up at the Dyken Pond Office, 61 State St.)

For more information, click [here](#).

Looking for Unusual Gift Ideas?

Personalized Trail Markers!

There is still time to order a personalized trail marker. As of this date, we have sold 45 trail markers, raising over \$2,000. Thank you to those who have already supported new trails with their purchase. These make great holiday gifts for those people on your list who have everything!



Each marker is \$50 and will appear similar to this:

For more information, click [here](#).

Walking Sticks

We have hand made walking sticks made from local maple and ash. \$15. We have a large assortment. Find one that suits you!



Contact Us

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Environmental Education Center**
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Visit us on the web at

www.dykenpond.org

Like us on Facebook and [Meetup!](#)

Follow us on Instagram: [dykenpond](#)



**Celebrating 25
Years!**