



Dyken Pond-erings

Newsletter of the Friends of the Dyken Pond Center

Issue 117

Promoting environmental awareness in people of all ages

Winter 2014

Dyken Pond Environmental
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Friends of Dyken Pond Board

President Jim Bonesteel Steps Down

Board of Directors

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President

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Dear Members and Supporters,

After 18 years as president of the Friends of Dyken Pond I have decided to step aside and turn the reigns over to new leadership. Len Tremblay has agreed to become our new president effective January 1, 2014. Len is coming in with lots of great energy and ideas which I hope and expect will really energize the board for some great new projects in next few years. Welcome Len and all the best of luck as our new president.

I would like to thank all of you for the support you have given to me and our organization over these years. With your support we have been able to support the Dyken Pond Center in the many programs it offers to both adults and children; summer camps, community art projects, summer concerts, adult field programs and much more. We have also been able to conserve over 200 acres of forest and wetlands adjacent to the Dyken Pond Center. All of this land is open to the public for all of the same recreational and educational activities as the County owned lands.

I would also like to thank the current members of our board and all those who have served on the board over the years. It has been great to

work with such a dedicated and hard working group of volunteers. We have been able to accomplish so much only because of their work and dedication.

In the past 5 years my focus has expanded from the Dyken Pond Center and its lands to the whole of the 118,000 acre Rensselaer Plateau. I am stepping aside as President of the Friends to focus more of my energy on the programs of the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA). These efforts have the potential to conserve thousands of acres in close proximity to the Dyken Pond Center. I plan to continue as a board member of the Friends and also plan to stay involved as the Friends work in close partnership with Rensselaer Plateau Alliance on a number of projects.

Thank you again for all you have helped us to achieve in the past two decades. I am confident that with the support of all of our members the coming years will prove to be every bit as productive or more so.

All the best,

Jim

Beaver Activity on Dustin Swamp



America Beaver

Castor Canadensis

If you've been out hiking along the Long Trail near Dustin Swamp, you will have noticed new beaver activity along the stream. Our resident family of beavers abandoned their lodge at the lower wetland and moved "uptown" and upstream to Dustin Swamp. In less than three weeks this past fall, they had built a brand new dam and lodge in time for winter. This activity raised the water level in Dustin Swamp by about three feet! This new engineering project caused the southern end of the boardwalk to become submerged underwater, and caution should be used when hiking in this area. Beaver activity will be monitored and trails will need to be assessed in spring time. If you haven't seen our beaver photos taken with the trail camera, visit our Facebook page for a close look at these amazing engineers!

Calendar of Events

March 15: Full Moon Trek: Enjoy the natural light of the full moon on a snowshoe trek. 7pm Free.

Sunday, March 16: Paying Attention Among the Trees: A Winter Walk and Nature Writing Experience with Diane Kavanaugh-Black

Conscious attention outdoors feeds us on many levels; writing about the experience helps us to absorb, remember, and relate it to our lives. This workshop will inspire the creative process whether you are a novice or already working on your own writing project. 1pm—3pm \$15; \$10 members

April 10: : American Woodcock Walk: 7pm. Pre-registration required. Free. Watch the American woodcock courting ritual at dusk.

April 27: Earth Day: Volunteer to work on trails. 1pm - 4pm.





Hello,

I would like to introduce myself as the newly elected President of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Dyken Pond. I consider myself an outdoorsman and enjoy the pleasures and treasures that are offered at Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center. It is with great pride that I was elected as President of the Board and I plan to continue the efforts of the former president, Jim Bonesteel. The vision of the Board is to conserve the beauty and integrity that we have at Dyken Pond and the surrounding area and when I say we, I mean everyone that works for and visits the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center.

The board and all friends, working along with Rensselaer County, have a vision of the Dyken Pond Environmental Center as improved and accessible to everyone from Rensselaer County and the surrounding areas. The Board of Directors works hard to assist the county in maintaining the beauty and integrity of Dyken Pond and the surrounding areas.

I want to say thank you to our outgoing President, Jim Bonesteel, for all the hard work and dedication that he has given to the friends for the 18 years as president and the many more years that he was involved before becoming President. I look forward to his continued assistance with Dyken Pond and with his vast number of years of experience, as I would be remiss if I were not to call upon him from time to time and use that experience to the benefit of Dyken Pond and the surrounding areas.

I appreciate the confidence that the Board has in me. I will do my best to live up to their expectations.

Leonard E. Tremblay

President of the Board of the Friends of Dyken Pond

Nature Notes

Northern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*)



Northern Flying Squirrels live in dense conifer or mixed conifer and deciduous forests.

Their range extends from Alaska to Canada and the Northern U.S.; also found in the Appalachian Mountains from New England to North Carolina.

Northern Flying Squirrels eat nuts, fungi, and lichens; they'll also eat fruits, buds, sap, bird eggs, insects, and sometimes meat.

Northern Flying Squirrels are nocturnal animals and are active all year round.



Camera trap photo of Beaver in Dustin Swamp



**Friends of the Dyken Pond
Center**

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We're on the web!
www.dykenpond.org

Past issues of our newsletter can be found on our web site at:
www.dykenpond.org

Help us reduce paper waste. Send us your email address to receive future newsletters by email. We never share emails with other organizations. Send to: dykenpond@fairpoint.net.

VVIP: Volunteers: Very Important People

We are looking for enthusiastic folks who love the outdoors and outdoor education to help us out with these tasks:

Trail work: on-going and on special volunteer days

Gardening: we have a vegetable, bird and perennial flower garden.

Newsletter: write an article or help us coordinate the layout.

Weekend Meet and Greet: interact with the public, rent boats and snowshoes

Outreach: Represent the Friends of DP at community events.

Fundraising: help us with community events