

# Comments on Connetquot

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L to R: David Reisfield, Frank Grasso, Karlyn Grasso, Richard Remmer, Janet Soley, Jessica Anderson-Ruiz, Glenn Reed  
Photo courtesy of NYS Parks

## Greetings Friends!

Looking back at this past Spring, we experienced exhilarating highs that made me so proud and devastating lows that tested our resilience. We lost two wonderful members of our Connetquot family; Caitlain McIntyre Holtslag and Keith Snedecor. The character of Connetquot will change with their passing. Keith's contribution to the park and his love for sharing the history of his family and the club will forever be remembered. And Caitlin was truly one of a kind with her vibrant spirit, love for the environment, and her infectious laugh.



We had an amazing Big Check Presentation with the John C. Dunphy Private Foundation whose funds will go towards the construction of the Red Loop Accessible Trail and we had fun riding around on the trails with the "all terrain" wheelchairs Albany brought downstate for us to demo.

The Yellow trail has been entered onto the Birdability Trail System and we are acquiring binoculars and other assistive devices for patrons use. I hope to see you out on the trails before the summer heat is upon us! Get Offline and Get Out There! There are so many health benefits to being outdoors, surrounded by the beauty of the Preserve. Let's get EVERYONE outside!

Janet Marie  
Photo by Janet

## *What's Happening in the Preserve*

By Connetquot Park Manager Jessica Anderson

**Newly retired** - Staff celebrated the retirement of Janet and Jerry Ross at the beginning of June. Janet will enjoy retirement to the fullest by sleeping in and enjoying her favorite tv shows from her favorite spot on the couch. Jerry on the other hand, can't stay away – but can we blame him?!

**Summer seasonal employees** – staff is at full summer complement. Several employees are returning, a few are new. Please introduce yourself if you see them in the toll booth or on the trails.

**Park Ranger** – we are fortunate to have Ken returning as Park Ranger for the summer. Just like last summer, his primary role will be assisting with rule enforcement, monitoring access points, patrolling trails, and angler paths. He will ensure anglers are using proper equipment, patrons are following the rules, as well as checking for valid Bridle Path Permits.

**Evening fly-fishing** – evening fishing is available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday by reservation only and must check-in by 3:30PM.

**Trail maintenance** – staff is out daily, as weather permits, mowing trail edges and performing standard maintenance, landscaping, and pruning.

**Hatchery** – Matt received delivery of 25,000 rainbow trout eggs. They've hatched and are growing more each day. Idle Hour Flyfishing Club has been working hard to add trout habitat to the canal at sites 17-20 by adding logs and boulders. Many Thanks to staff and our area fishing clubs for river vegetation work on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Another successful Kids Fishing Day** – Saturday, June 14 we hosted a kids fly fishing day with Long Island Trout Unlimited. The weather was cool and rainy, but that didn't stop families from coming out. The dedication from our fishing clubs is incredible!

**Collins Crossing Update** – the Long Island Capital Team (engineering) conducted a site visit to inspect the deteriorating articulated concrete block (ACB). Turfstone, or similar product, is cost-effective and will minimize bank erosion from frequent equestrian traffic. The Capital Team will be submitting paperwork to the DEC, requesting a permit to conduct the removal of the current ACB and install new concrete matting. The timeline is unknown, however, once DEC approves and issues a permit, the work will be performed inhouse. Staff continue to check this crossing weekly to ensure there are no new hazards.

**Main House Updates** – the ladies sitting room where the environmental educators had their office is being cleared out. The educators now have office space on the second floor of the Main Club House and the second floor of the Admin. Building. The ladies sitting room is long overdue for a fresh coat of paint and decluttering. The large area rug was removed from the men's dining room. The floor is in incredible condition; however, we will be adding a new area run to ensure we preserve the floor and do not damage them during programs and meetings.

**Ticks** – they are out in full force. We encourage all visitors to remain on trails and to check often for ticks. Carrying a lint roller is highly recommended as you can't always see ticks because they are so small. Check out the [NYS Parks Blog](#) for more info, featuring our very own tick surveyor, Orie.



## *Hoof Beats*

By Carole Scialdone



It's finally Summer! Warm, sunny days are here and we love it. On the hottest days, we just go for a walk through the park so the horses don't get overheated. The tree canopy helps protect us from the sun and we hope for an occasional cooling breeze. The ticks and biting flies are back so flymasks and tick spray are definitely required. It's important to stay on the sandy trails and off the grass trails during the worst part of tick season. Checking yourself and your horse upon returning home is a grueling but imperative task.

There are lots of animals roaming the park on these hot Summer days. On almost every ride we get to see multiple deer with their spotted fawns, lots of turkeys, and the adorable fox kits are getting so big! The turtles are keeping cool in their little ponds and the osprey are fishing in the big pond.

We are starting to see more hikers, runners and families enjoying the park as the temperatures rise and the Spring rains diminish. The Park staff has been busy maintaining the trails and mowing the grass, for which we are always thankful. The Park Ranger is actively patrolling the trails, checking Bridle Path Permits, and monitoring access points in addition to various other duties.

Carole & Duke Photo by Laurie Gordon

## **Kayak at Connetquot Available Year Round!**



2 Sessions Available  
Rentals are first come, first served  
Single Seat Fishing Kayaks  
Perfect for anglers, bird watching  
and wildlife viewing!

[illegible]



## Friends of Connetquot Programs

Register at [www.friendsofconnetquot.org](http://www.friendsofconnetquot.org)

Our Programs are free to members, \$5 for non-members. Seasonal Parking Rate Applies

### 6th Annual Long Island Women's Fishing Expo

**Saturday, September 13 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**



A FREE event hosted by women for women! Learn how to fly-fish on the beautiful Connetquot River! Pre-registration required.

The day includes:

Fly fishing clinic	Fly casting instruction	Basic knot tying
Trout hatchery tour	Fisheries management	Advanced fishing
info		

... and much more!

For questions and to register call 631-444-0283 or email [fwfish1@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwfish1@dec.ny.gov) with the subject, *Women's Fishing Expo*. **Ages 14 and Over Only.**

### Forest Bathing Walk

**Presented by Linda Lombardo**

**Sunday, September 21 - 10:30 AM**



Forest bathing is the practice of immersing yourself in nature in a mindful way, using your senses to derive a whole range of benefits for your physical, mental, emotional, and social health. Based on the Japanese tradition of *Shinrin-Yoku*, a wellness practice developed in the 1980s, forest bathing walks inspire mindful connections with the natural elements of the woods for a range of healthful benefits.

We'll slow down, wander and notice what most of the world simply walks past; the beauty of nature in any season. We'll do some grounding, connect with the trees and water, and may even create some nature art together. These walks are always slow and easy-going, not a hike; not a tour of plants. Walks always end with a ceremonial tea; something that could have been foraged in the forest. According to Linda, "Take this time to be present, lower any stress you may be experiencing, and naturally boost your immune system."

Dress for outdoor weather. Closed shoes and long pants are recommended. Organic bug spray only, please

### Fall Fly Fishing Outing

**Friday, October 17 - 7:30 AM**

The Friends would like to invite all to enjoy a day of fly fishing and a tasty lunch with beverage from the Snapper Inn. Note: all park rules still apply.

Admission is \$80 per person. We are sorry, but there will be no refunds for cancellations.

The event is limited to 25 people, so please apply as soon as possible.

Registration will open on our website in September.



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## Great State Park Programs!

**Reservations are required and are taken beginning 2 weeks prior to each program.**

To make a reservation, visit Eventbrite.com and search #NatureAdventure (Notice that's "Ed" not "Ad").

Fees: \$4.00 per adult, \$4.00 per child and children under 3 are free.

Seasonal Parking Fees are required.

Outdoor programs are rain or shine, so please dress appropriately.

### Bat Safari: (Family Program)

Friday August 1st 7:30pm ~ 9:30pm

Bats are both mysterious and often misunderstood. Join us for a short lecture and then walk with us through the preserve in search of our nocturnal neighbors!

### Clubhouse Tours: (Family Program)

Sunday September 7th 10am ~ 12pm and 1:00pm - 3:00pm

A docent will discuss the history of the tavern and the high society Club which shaped Connetquot River State Park Preserve into what it is today. Tours of the historic Nicoll Grist Mill are included and will be offered after your house tour. There will be a short talk outside before viewing the inside.

### Bird and Breakfast (Adult Program)

Saturday September 20th 8:00am ~ 11:00am

A continental breakfast will be provided before a short presentation on our seasonal native birds. Join us afterwards for a guided walk through the preserve. Binoculars are provided or bring your own! This program is in collaboration with the Great South Bay Audubon Society.

## Historical Bits by Bob Giffen

Reprinted from the Friends Newsletter Winter 2020

### Long Island – Where to Go LIRR – 1877



“South Side Club, forty-seven miles from Long Island City. Number of trains each way, daily 4. Single fare \$1.20; excursion \$2.10. Beautifully situated on the side of a mill stream that is plentifully supplied with trout. Here the wealth of New York diverts itself, the neighborhood abounding in every conceivable kind of game. The Club House, under the management of Obadiah Snedecor, is open, for the reception of its members only, all the year round.

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#### Mission Statement

The Friends of Connetquot is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation and history of the 3,473-acre Connetquot River State Park Preserve. We work to help management protect a pristine environment and historic buildings and artifacts. We also support educational programs, fishing facilities and hiking and equestrian trails.

The records of the Friends of Connetquot can be viewed in our room at the Preserve. The New York State Office of Charities Registration holds copies of the annual charities reports required by law.

PLEASE NOTE: Automatic defibrillators are available in the administration office, the BOCES room, the main building and at the hatchery. Park staff is trained in their use.

For Emergencies in the Preserve: Call the New York Park Police at 631-669-2500.

Also notify the Entrance Booth at 631-581-1005.



#### *Give Us Your Best Shot*

Share your photos of the Preserve with us! Send us up to four photos, in .jpeg or .png digital format, for a chance to win a free year's membership in FOC. Photos must be current (within a year of submission) and shot within the park. Please give the approximate location of the scene whenever possible.

**DEADLINE for next issue: September 15, 2025.**

Send your files to [janetmariesoley@gmail.com](mailto:janetmariesoley@gmail.com)

#### *There's More to Explore!*

Discover your next adventure, download the NY State Explorer FREE app.



Key highlights and recent enhancements include quick access to park information, including directions, hours, fees and rates, **trail maps**, and helpful know-before-you-go details. The **Interactive map** now provides you with easier wayfinding: When the user's mobile device's location services are turned "on", visitors can easily follow along with where they are on the map; zoom in on and around to learn more about the facility; the trails, park features, and amenities by simply tapping on a trail or icon; Trail segment distance; and the ability to change base layers in live maps from satellite view, simple street view, or topography..

Visit us at [www.friendsofconnetquot.org](http://www.friendsofconnetquot.org)



FRIENDS OF CONNETQUOT  
BOX 472  
OAKDALE NY 11769

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 96  
Smithtown,  
N.Y. 11787



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## Save the Date for our 1<sup>st</sup> Harvest Moon Celebration Sunday October 5



Music, crafts, light refreshments  
Ending with a lantern hike to enjoy the foliage and Harvest Moon



The Friends of Connetquot thanks Parks and Trails New York and  
the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic  
Preservation for their support of our efforts.



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic  
Preservation**