

# Comments on Connetquot



Published by the Friends of Connetquot River State Park Preserve

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 2 Summer 2024

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Friends!

What can I say?? Snakes creep me out almost as much as it does Advisory Board Member Sandi Brewster-walker! Sorry Sandi! But isn't our cover photo amazing? Park visitor Laura Colosa spotted this water snake enjoying a lunch of eel near the Mill Pond spillway. I think that SSSC Members might have enjoyed such a meal at that location too!

Joking aside, this photo is SO important! It should remind us that we are a NY State Park Preserve and that comes with some very special distinctions. Connetquot has fauna and flora that you wouldn't find in most of the other Long Island parks. It's our pristine environment that makes Connetquot so very special, and, as stewards of this Preserve, each of us have the opportunity and responsibility to maintain its unspoiled beauty. Besides scary (though non-venomous) snakes, where else might you hear peeper frogs, smell skunk cabbage, enjoy the beauty of the Southern Twayblade orchid (which is just one of the many rare plant species we protect), marvel at American eels and our ever-growing Purple Martin community? These beautiful fascinations of nature are just bonuses as we hike, ride or fish along the Connetquot.

Then too, serendipity heightens the diversity of the park. No matter how familiar you are with our preserve, you may, on your twentieth, fiftieth or hundredth visit, happen upon something you haven't seen before.

Enjoy the summer—but when it gets too warm, remember that the waters of the Connetquot are always 52 degrees and the trees provide cooling shade!

See you soon,  
Janetmarie

Photo: Snake sushi! Laura Colosa took this shot on May 19.

## Historical Bits

### Bradford L. Gilbert

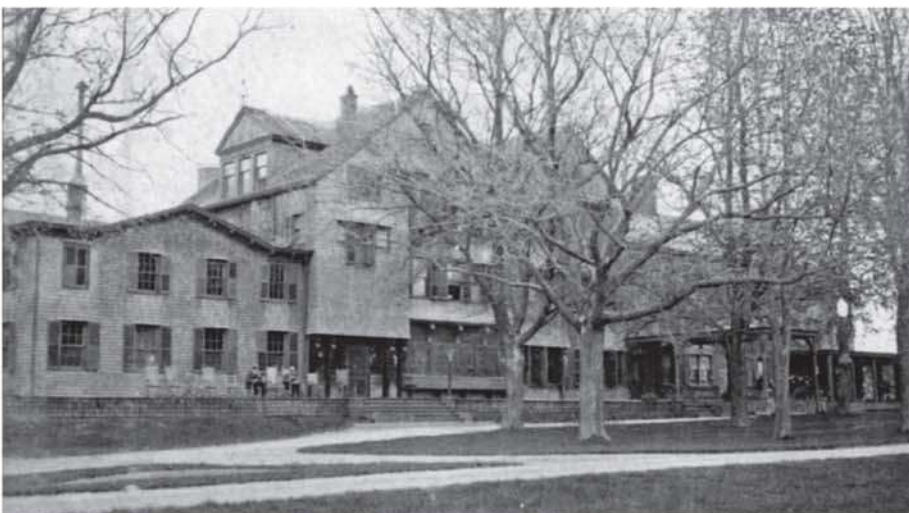
Watertown, NY native Bradford Gilbert (1853-1911) was educated at college preparatory schools with an eye toward attending Yale. However, he decided to forgo college and instead take up architecture in the office of J. Cleveland Cady in Manhattan. In 1876, at age 23, he became the official architect of the New York, Lake Erie, and Western Railroad, working under engineer Octave Chanute, who later became a pioneer in aviation.

After several years he opened his own office specializing in railroad stations and public buildings and achieved national prominence. He is also credited with creating the modern technique of using steel frame construction with curtain walls for tall buildings. His 15-story Tower Building in downtown New York, since demolished, was even then not the tallest in the city, but it gained him widespread acclaim as an innovator.

He was deeply involved in the growing railroad industry, serving as architect or consulting architect for many railroad companies nationwide and designing important railroad stations, including a major reconstruction of Grand Central Depot, the forerunner of Grand Central Station. On Long Island, his work is still visible at the Oyster Bay and Southampton stations.

As many of the South Side Sportsmen's Club members were affiliated with railroads, it seems only natural that when they contemplated renovations to the Clubhouse they would think of hiring Gilbert as the architect. Below, top, the Clubhouse is shown prior to Gilbert's work, with one- and two-story sections. The bottom shows his 1886 expansion, with the overhang and the gabled roof. Inside is the beautiful staircase we enjoy now.

Our thanks to FOC Board Member Keith Snedecor for researching Gilbert. Photos are from Dave Morrison (top), Wikipedia and the *New York Times*.



Above, the Tower Building. Gilbert devised the steel-frame construction because of the limitations of a narrow lot.



## Board Spotlight: Katie Schnepf

As of March 2024, Katie Schnepf is the new Environmental Educator 3 for the Long Island Region of NY State Parks. Based at Connetquot River State Park Preserve, she manages Environmental Education programs and staff from Hempstead Lake to Montauk. Katie enjoys working with the Regional Environmental Education Team and Connetquot staff. To date, she coordinated regional Solar Eclipse viewing events in April, supported Piping Plover protection efforts at the Jones Beach Air Show in May, and is coordinating a Centennial Celebration in June for NYS Parks' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She looks forward to collaborating with the Friends of Connetquot and thanks the members who will be volunteering at the Centennial event!

Katie earned a B.A. in Environmental Education from Warren Wilson College and an M.A. in Education from Antioch University Seattle. She served as the first Park Ranger 2 for the Long Island Region, coordinating the hiring, training, and supervision of 60 seasonal park rangers serving in 12 State Parks. Before that, she worked for as the Assistant to the Director at the Jones Beach Energy & Nature Center, providing a wide range of support to both the Director and Chief Curator and the environmental education team.

Katie is an experienced educator, leader, and inclusive community builder at heart. Her connection with nature and people has been central to a variety of professional roles in her 25-year career: education program manager, camp director, outdoor environmental educator, and AmeriCorps team leader. Katie is committed to the values of NY State Parks, especially teaching Our Whole History, an inclusive approach to education about our parks, and that All Are Welcome. She is dedicated to making environmental education programs equitable, accessible, and inclusive for all.

Originally from Long Island, NY, Katie lived in the Pacific Northwest for 15 years and returned in 2017. She is happy to be back living near family and loves to explore NY State Parks by biking and hiking in her free time. She also plays the violin and used to perform with community orchestras and live bands.



## *What's Happening in the Park*

*Connetquot Park Manager Jessica Anderson-Ruiz Park sent us the following:*

On May 4<sup>th</sup> we hosted the Annual I Love My Park Day and it was a tremendous success! Thank you to those who came out to support and assist with the morning's projects. Including staff, we had nearly 50 people participate. Projects included painting the Clubhouse porch, weeding the pollinator garden, planting an American Holly, painting the Hatchery Nursery Building, planting natives along the entrance drive, installation of a wooden walkway on the Greenbelt, and weeding in front of the Grist Mill. Be sure to save the date for Fish and Wildlife Day, taking place September 28, 2024!

The evening fishing session (4 PM to 8 PM) began May 10. This session is only available on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays through June 30.

The property north of Veterans Highway saw several brush fires at the end of April. We increased monitoring and staff presence; thankfully no other incidents have occurred.

Staff has begun mowing trail edges and performing standard maintenance, landscaping, and pruning.

The Idle Hour Flyfishing Club assisted with repairing the structure of the Nursery Building. Staff is working on predator proofing. The brook trout in the Hatch House are close to graduating and moving outside into the ponds, including into the restored Nursery Building which will house the first trout eggs harvested by Park Staff in years! Rainbow trout eggs will arrive next month.

We had a rare sighting of the Blue Grosbeak at the Park in the middle of April. Keep your eyes open for other rare birds that might make an appearance at the park throughout the summer!

## *Parks & Trails NY Announces a New I ♥ My Park Day Fall Event*

Coinciding with National Hunting and Fishing Day, September 28, **Fish and Wildlife Day** is a great opportunity to show your appreciation for wildlife and wildlife conservation. We are in the midst of planning the activities for the day, which may include planting native plant species, removing invasives, clearing debris from our perimeter fencing and other activities to foster a healthy habitat. At the end of the day, pair your stewardship efforts with a birding or nature walk and appreciate the importance of wildlife conservation! Keep an eye out for more information about this special event!

Parks & Trails New York's  
**I LOVE MY PARK** *days*



by Janet Soley

May 4 was a beautiful day that helped bring smiles to everyone's face for this year's I Love My Park Day! Many thanks to all of our volunteers and project leaders. The Friends of Connetquot wish to express our appreciation to our generous sponsors: Salt & Barrel, Bay Shore; Oakdale Ace Hardware; L.I. Greenbelt Trail Conference; N.Y. State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; U.S. Fish and Wildlife; Ellen Adkins; Daniel Viafore, Kenneth O'Rourke; Mark and Janet Soley; Andy Mirchel; Rich Woerter; Keith Snedecor; and the Educators, Environmentalists and Staff at Connetquot River State Park Preserve!

### *Ritamarie, Newsday Star*

Congratulations to FOC's Director of Historic Preservation Ritamarie Weigand for earning a well-deserved, full-page spread in the May 21 *Newsday* highlighting the work of FOC's History Project. The article described how FOC purchased—safe to say rescued—200 or so boxes of books and historical documents from the defunct Dowling College. Since then, Rita's team of volunteers has spent two years sorting and cataloguing this trove of artifacts. FOC is working to preserve materials relevant to the South Side Sportsmen's Club in archival boxes while also retaining 25 boxes of books with an eye towards creating a library at Connetquot Preserve.

Significant portions of what FOC purchased had no direct connection to the Club but involved other historical figures and places. Thus, on April 14, the Friends hosted a "gifting day," an open house for other organizations, to offer them these documents. Among the happy takers were the Vanderbilt Museum, the Oakdale Historical Society, the State of New York, the Suffolk County Historical Society, and even Yale University.

Ritamarie reports that of the estimated 200 boxes originally stored at the park, only 12 remain to be sorted, and 25 boxes of books are pending inventory. In three years the History Team has sorted, archived and transferred 148 boxes that had been stored for years. The History Project has spent over \$1,250 on archival boxes and mailings. A Herculean task!

**Give Us Your Best Shot:** Our thanks to Laura Colosa for her great cover photo in this issue. 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 9, 2024**. Send your files to Tom Casey at: [2caseys@optonline.net](mailto:2caseys@optonline.net).

### *\*\*\* Historic Mill Tours \*\*\**

Our volunteer docents take a break from tours of Connetquot's historic Clubhouse in the hot summer months. However, tours of the fascinating Nicoll Grist Mill *will* be available on a limited schedule. For updates and information, check the Connetquot State Park Preserve website, <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/8>.

## Friends of Connetquot Programs at Connetquot River State Park Preserve

### *Friends of Connetquot Fly-Fishing Clinic*

**Saturday, July 27 - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

The Friends of Connetquot is pleased to offer one-on-one fly-fishing instructions on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Register for your 1-½ hour session online to reserve your instructor. You do not need equipment or a license for this event. We're taking care of everything! All you have to do is come and enjoy the experience!

Free instruction open to everyone 16 years and older, but you *must* make a reservation at [www.friendsofconnetquot.org/calendar](http://www.friendsofconnetquot.org/calendar).



### *5th Annual Long Island Women's Fishing Expo*

**Saturday, September 14 - 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.**

Vendors, clubs, and volunteers wanted! Please email or call.

\*Please note: There is an \$8.00 parking fee.

#### **Schedule of Events:**

10:00 AM - Registration all day	11:30 AM - Hatchery Tour 2
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tables/Displays	12:00 PM - Session 3 fly fishing/casting
10:00 AM - Session 1 fly fishing/casting	12:30 PM - Hatchery Tour 3
10:30 AM - Hatchery Tour 1	1:00 PM - Session 4 fly fishing/casting
11:00 AM - Session 2 fly fishing/casting	1:30 PM - Hatchery Tour 4

The Clubhouse and Gristmill will be open for viewing and tours upon request.

Participants and exhibitors include: DEC Freshwater Fisheries; I FISH NY Program; NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; DEC Marine Resources; Friends of Connetquot; Trout Unlimited Art Flick Chapter; Long Island Trout Unlimited; River Bay Outfitters; Idle Hour Fly Fishing Club; Long Island Flyrodders; Casting for Recovery; NY Sea Grant/Long Island Sound Study; DEC Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force; *The Fisherman* and more....

### *Fall Fly Fishing Outing*

**Friday, October 18 - 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. Reservations must be received by October 21st so lunches can be ordered.



# Forest Bathing Walk

Presented by Linda Lombardo

Sunday, September 22, 2024 - 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.

## A Bridge Not Too Far

Many visitors to Connetquot take what we sometimes call the "chamber of commerce" walk in the park, seeing the historic complex at the south end and then strolling the mile or so up to the Hatchery, either doing an out-and-back or looping up one side of the river and down the other. This is an understandably popular venture, with plenty to see.

However, if you have not yet done so, consider adding another half mile-plus and walk north to Bunce's Bridge. The quickest way is to follow the white-blazed L.I. Greenbelt Trail from the Hatchery north, skirting a wetland, to a T-intersection with the Green Trail. Turn to the right and the bridge will be a short distance ahead.

Bunce's Bridge is a historic crossing point, originally a shallow ford, that was used by stagecoaches traveling from the LIRR Main Line in Central Islip to the Southside Sportsman's Club. Teddy Roosevelt crossed here when riding from Oyster Bay to visit his cousin John at Meadowcroft in Sayville. The present, sturdy bridge, built in 1996, replaced a lower, 1951 wooden span that collapsed into the river under the weight of a park truck in 1993. This earlier bridge was sited a short way downstream, right where there is now a fishing station on the east bank of the river. Take time to enjoy the wonderful views north and south from the bridge!



Left: The old 1951 Bunce's Bridge; right: the one we enjoy today. T. Casey

## Super Volunteers



by Janet Soley

Team building, community service, homemade chocolate cookies and great weather. You can't beat that formula! Goldman Sachs volunteers returned again in June for another great day of comradery and community. The Team laid the foundation for our new Yellow Trail section which will guide patrons safely off the hatchery road and lead them past our children's and pollinator gardens. Once completed, the trail will provide a safe, accessible trailway. Thank you, Robert Whelan and the Goldman Sachs team!

There's so much more to come. This new path is just the first phase of our accessibility and inclusion projects. FOC hopes to fund upgrades to our children's garden with exciting new tactile and audible experiences for our young visitors. The pollinator garden needs to be added to our STQRY audio tour and Braille signage that will help teach visitors what they smell and feel. Additional pathways are planned from the parking lot to the Administration building, with native planting borders, as well as from the pollinator garden to the Hatchery. These changes are needed, and if you can help fund or supply manpower, *please, please, reach out to us!*

*Photos: Janet Soley*

## I BIRD NY (Do You?)

Whether you're an avid birder or not, you may wish to participate in the NYS Department of Conservation's 2024 I BIRD NY Challenge. Use your observation skills and join the annual Challenge by identifying any ten bird species of your choosing in New York State. We, of course, suggest you do so in Connetquot River State Park Preserve. That should make your task easy, as FOC VP David Reisfield reports that 168 different species have been spotted in the park already this year!

Participants who successfully complete this fun challenge will be awarded a commemorative patch, can download a completion certificate, and be entered into a drawing for great birding prizes. Participants will also receive an extra prize entry for providing a photo documenting their challenge experience. Two youth and two adult winners will be chosen.

The challenge is open to participants of all ages and abilities now through November 1, and available in Spanish.

[Complete a Challenge Log online \(https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/ibirdnychallengeform.pdf\)](https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/ibirdnychallengeform.pdf) or download the I BIRD NY Challenge form (PDF), also available in Spanish (PDF).

Entries can be submitted online via Survey Monkey, mailed to I BIRD NY Challenge, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1020, or emailed to [BirdingChallenge@dec.ny.gov](mailto:BirdingChallenge@dec.ny.gov). Entries must be received by November 15.

Birding enthusiasts can also search I BIRD NY online to access this year's challenge sheet and find information on where and how to watch birds, upcoming birding events, a downloadable *Beginner's Guide to Birding*, and additional resources. Those interested may also opt to sign up for DEC's monthly birding newsletter, *Words of a Feather*, to have birding tips and tricks, New York State Birding Trail site recommendations, events, and more.



ISLIP ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS

# PLEINATHON

A PLEIN AIR PAINTING MARATHON

**OUTDOOR PAINTING | DEMO | LECTURE**



On May 18<sup>th</sup>, FOC hosted the Islip Arts Council's Pleinathon. This full day event brought together artists from all over the Island, many who had never been to Connetquot before. FOC President Janet Soley gave them the abridged version of our Club's rich history, and then it was time for the artists to break out the brushes at whatever places in the park gave them inspiration.

*En plein air* (French for "outdoors") painting only became feasible in the 1800s, when the invention of portable canvases and easels made it possible for artists to work outdoors. When paint became available in tubes in the 1840s, *plein air* painting took off. It allowed artists, freed from the confines of studios and



artificial light, to more accurately capture the changes in weather and daily shift in light. However, they now had to work more quickly, giving rise to looser brushwork and softer forms, and ultimately Impressionism. Rousseau, Monet and Renoir frequently painted outdoors. *Plein air* became popular and widespread throughout the U.S., including with artists of the Hudson River School and those drawn to the Hamptons by the light there.

Connetquot State Park Preserve certainly offers wonderful opportunities for artists with its historic buildings, pristine woodlands and streams, and wildlife.

*Photos: Janet Soley*



If you're a Friend of Connetquot, please remember to renew your membership.  
If you're reading this but are not yet a Friend, please support our efforts to enhance our beautiful preserve.  
Visit our website, [www.friendsofconnetquot.org/join](http://www.friendsofconnetquot.org/join).



# The Changing Landscape

by Tom Casey

Our favorite park had the dubious distinction of being one of the first places on Long Island to be hit with significant attacks from the Southern Pine Beetle, starting around 2012. SPB has affected Southern forests and the lumber industry there for many decades. It gradually moved north, becoming a concern in southern New Jersey for years before making the jump to Long Island. Climate change was one factor, and many observers theorize that Superstorm Sandy accelerated the spread.

One of the first noticeable infestations in Connetquot was on the east side of the Hatchery Road. The top picture, taken in October, 2008, shows Connetquot's forest as it appeared pre-beetle, a fairly typical oak-pine barren, with white and scarlet oak and pitch pine in the canopy and blueberry, huckleberry and other heath plants in the understory.

When the beetle arrived, it made its presence known quickly. The beetles bore into a tree and create a network of galleries under the bark, effectively cutting the tree's circulatory system. The tree can die within a month.

In the thick of the beetle battle, State Parks was forced to cut large swaths of affected pitch pines, plus some healthy trees on the perimeter to create a buffer zone and also any dead trees that could fall on roads or trails. Cutting and sectioning the trees is the only way to stop the beetle, which then doesn't seem to spread. This is especially effective if the cutting is done in cold weather. Of course, what's left is an ugly landscape. The middle photo shows Connetquot in 2016.

The cutting and clearing of the resultant mess puts a huge strain on park budgets and personnel and in many places is impractical. It's OK to just leave the downed trees to decay and disappear in a few years, but in the interim the fuel load in the forest can pose a threat.

So now we come to the present. That spot in Connetquot where SPB first appeared now looks like the bottom photo, taken on June 14. The canopy is devoid of pines, and the tall oaks thrive. In the now-abundant sunlight, grasses and sedges moved in, and inkberry holly is growing over six feet tall at lower left. Young oaks are also poking up. The understory is very dense, almost impenetrable. It's taken a dozen years to get to this stage.

What will happen in the next dozen years? The taller shrubs will shade out the grasses, the oaks will grow taller and start shading the shrubs, and the understory will thin out somewhat, probably allowing some pitch pines to regain a foothold. After that, barring another attack of SPB, the area will likely revert slowly to the appearance of its surroundings, with the open spot, as Robert Frost would say, "now slowly closing like a dent in dough."

Beyond that, all bets are off. Climate change, rising seas, pollution, violent weather, and migrating species may—will?—alter our landscape in ways we cannot foresee. Warming temperatures already have half the world's flora and fauna migrating to more favorable climes. That includes who knows how many invasive species and diseases.

The majority of us won't be around to see the most drastic changes in our landscape, but our descendants will have to deal with the ecological, political and social disruptions that will ensue. That doesn't mean they *won't*. Humans can be as resilient as nature when they want to be. As the Chinese say, "May you live in interesting times!"



## A Feat for Dry Feet

In our previous issue, we featured the March 18 construction of a boardwalk in a muddy area of Connetquot Park north of Vets Highway. On I ♥ My Park Day, May 4, volunteers added another walkway, this one a 45-footer, west and south of Bunce's Bridge on the Greenbelt Trail. Both spans employ the same design: long aluminum extension ladders with wooden stringers fastened parallel to them, with treads then attached to the stringers. Anchor it all down, and voila!

Photos right show volunteers in blue I ♥ My Park Day shirts and black-clad FOC PVice President and Greenbelt Trail Conference President David Reisfield.

*Ritamarie Weigand*



## Sales Pitch

We offer our deepest thanks for your continued support of the Friends of Connetquot. Allow us a moment to remind you of just some of what our efforts have accomplished in enhancing the infrastructure and visitor experience at our jewel of a preserve. Among other things we have restored the Nicoll Grist Mill, Ice House and Carpenter Shop.

In the Clubhouse we have restored the 19th century stained-glass transom window over the entrance, created exhibits in two upstairs rooms, restored the tin ceiling and the skylight in the Fish Prep Room, commissioned the installation of a fire suppression system, secured the return of Eliphalet Snedecor's portrait and the Astor House stove, restored flooring in several rooms, and purchased many artifacts for display.

The Friends helped to reopen the Hatchery after it was closed in 2009, raising funds for a water filtration system. We are now in the process of completing enhancements and signage for the Hatchery. We also purchased a trail-grooming tool for the benefit of equestrians and walkers, and we have funded a high school scholarship.

One of our most significant contributions is the work of our History Project in preserving the history of the South Side Sportsmen's Club and its members.

Take satisfaction in the idea that your contributions helped make all these works possible—and please, be sure to keep your membership up to date. Consider raising your membership category one level. Also, encourage your friends to become Friends! It's a big park and needs all the love it can get. Renew or join online at [www.friendsofconnetquot.org/join](http://www.friendsofconnetquot.org/join).

## Reminders

We've mentioned these items in past issues, but they're worth repeating:

**Trail maps to go:** You can carry a Connetquot trail map in your pocket. Type Connetquot Park on your phone browser or go directly to the park website, <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/8/details.aspx>; scroll down to a "Maps" button on the right side of the screen, and click on the Download button. This works for iOS and Android phones and is free.

**Centennial Challenge:** Again, don't forget New York State Parks' Centennial Challenge, celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> year of our park system. Parks has assembled a list of 100 tasks covering virtually every conceivable activity offered at its facilities, ranging strenuous to sedentary. You have until the end of the year to complete 24 out of the 100 to earn a commemorative Centennial prize and have your name entered into a drawing for one of 24 three-year Empire Passes and a Centennial "swag bag."

Download the app at <https://www.parks.ny.gov/100/challenge> to track online, or print out the list at <https://www.parks.ny.gov/documents/100/OPRHPCentennialChallengeChecklist.pdf>.



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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.



Sherrri Casey



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

*We'll see you out there*

**Upcoming Events:**

**July 27 – Learn to Fly Fish Clinic**

**September 14 – Women's Fishing Expo**

**September 22 – Forest Bathing**

**September 28 – I Love My Park Day**

**October 5 – Centennial Celebration  
and Hatchery Project Unveiling**

**October 11-13– Haunted Connetquot**

**October 18 – Friends Fishing Outing**

**November – Indigenous History Month**

**December 5 – FOC's ANNUAL GALA**

**December 14 – Clubhouse Holiday Decorating**

*Save the date: October 5*

Plans are underway to host a celebration for NYS Parks Centennial. The park plans to have info booths, offer guided bird walks, hiking, house and grist mill tours, hatchery tours, etc. As plans develop, we will keep you updated. Also, FOC will unveil informational signs and wall art inside the hatchery house, telling visitors what type of trout are in the troughs and their ages. There will be displays on the importance of trout and the Connetquot River.

*Span Still Closed*

State Parks' engineering department is working with a structural engineer to finalize a design for the replacement culvert and slab bridge on Brook Road, damaged months ago by fast-moving water. Since then, this short passage on the east side of the river has been deemed unstable and closed to park vehicles, directly impacting park operations, and also limits access to some trails for equestrians.

However, the park reports that there has been an increase in the number of horseback riders ignoring the barricades and signs that state the trail is closed. We urge riders to be patient and safe. A fix is in the works, but it will take time.

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

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FRIENDS OF CONNETQUOT  
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COME JOIN THE FRIENDS



They're everywhere! If it seems we have a turkey photo in every issue lately, it's probably because whenever we visit Connetquot they're always there to greet us. These birds were on the Green Trail June 14. *T. Casey*



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**