

Comments on Connetquot



Published by the Friends of Connetquot River State Park Preserve

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 4 Winter 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Friends! Happy New Year!

Winter has finally arrived, and I think I heard the preserve take a sigh of relief from the heat and drought that plagued us in 2024. I'm looking forward to the new year and all its potential. The Friends of Connetquot are so very grateful to work with such amazing people—historians, craftsmen, artisans, ecologists, and our passionate volunteers and supporters. We have big plans for 2025, and I hope that after reading this newsletter, you will join us in the activities! Check out the calendar of upcoming events on page 11!

Our major themes for 2025 are inclusiveness, mindfulness, and accessibility. I have a new slogan for this year that I learned at the Friends Statewide Conference: **THE OUTDOORS IS FOR EVERY BODY!** Regardless of your ability, the outdoors welcomes you, and the Friends of Connetquot will focus on that premise.

As we work on raising funds for ADA improvements in the preserve, we will offer programs that we hope will invite everyone into the Preserve. There are so many health benefits to being outdoors, surrounded by the beauty of the Preserve. Let's get EVERYONE outside!

See you out there!
Janet Marie

First Snow! Photo by Serina Oliver



Board Spotlight: Nutmeg

By Ashley Longo



Say Hello to Nutmeg, our Eastern Screech Owl. She was found in 2013 after her nest tree was cut down and was in rehab at Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue in Hampton Bays. She had a cataract in her eye and couldn't hunt live prey so she wasn't able to be released. Connetquot Educators got federal and state permits to keep her and she was transferred to live her life here in captivity. We calculate that she is between 11-12 years old. They can live up to 20 years in captivity. This past summer we noticed a small lump growing on the inside of her lower eyelid, she had eye surgery the day after Thanksgiving and a biopsy found it to be a carcinoma. She's going to need more eye surgery to remove her eye for any more potential cancer cells. Owl Surgeons and Owl anesthesiologists are rare and expensive! Please consider making a donation to help for Nutmegs surgeries.

What's Happening in the Preserve

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

The eyed Brook trout eggs delivered in early December from Cold Spring Harbor have hatched and are growing swimmingly in the hatch house. Matt Caputo, hatchery manager, has made arrangements with Cold Spring Harbor to visit the park and conduct a hands on training when it's time to strip Rainbow trout eggs in the spring. We are eager to learn some tips and tricks on propagating trout and will be sure to report back!

Staff from the DEC Fisheries Unit visited the park to train Connetquot staff how to use the Electro Fish Shocker - again, thank you Friends for the generous gift! They conducted an in depth training on how to safely operate the unit. It was a great afternoon with our DEC friends and Connetquot staff is excited to begin using the unit! We are lucky to have such an incredible sister agency who supports us and has the same passion for conservation and preservation.

Staff have finished winter mowing trails and fields we mow only once a year. We continue to conduct routine trail maintenance with removing dead limbs and trees.

Sale of the 2025 annual bridle path permit has begun. Cost is \$60 per permit. The locks on all equestrian access gates will be changed the beginning of 2025. Riders are encouraged to get their permit now, along with a new key, so there are no issues with access.

Currently, there is no fee to access our beautiful park. We will not collect again until April 2025.

First Snow of the Season! Fun for All!

Photos by Carole Scialdone and Serina Oliver



Merry Christmas to the Connetquot Hatchery!

By David Reisfield, James Fitzpatrick, Patrick Hein and Matt Caputo

Photo by Ritamarie Weigand



The Friends of Connetquot with support from Art Flick TU, purchased and donated to Connetquot River State Park Preserve, a Smith-Root electro fisher model LR-24. This purchase included warranty and training. The only caveat to the donation was that the unit become property of Connetquot River State Park Preserve and remain within the park for the unit's lifetime. We look forward to seeing what "grows" from this donation!

The Intended Uses are:

- Assisting staff in catching and handling trout during the process of stripping eggs and milt to raise our own fish and get us on the path of being more self-reliant.
- Monitoring the happenings in our river system. Have the ability to see what other species are inhabiting the Connetquot be it good or bad.
- Properly remove any predators (eels or larger fish) in the raceways before we move out all the fingerlings.
- Assistance in any handling of trout to properly collect data such as length and weight. Information necessary to correlate feed levels.

Hoof Beats

By Carole Scialdone

Photo by Kathy Schlosser

Connetquot's Fall foliage never disappoints and this past Fall was spectacular! Every vivid earth tone color was represented; flaming red, tangerine orange and lemon yellow just to name a few. Definitely one of my very favorite seasons to ride Connetquot's trails. But now, the leaves are all gone, the trees are sleeping and the cold winds are blowing; Winter is upon us.

Winter brings several challenges for equestrians and their mounts. Hard, frozen ground can be hard on horses legs therefore riders must pay close attention to the footing and use caution with their speed. Snow balls up in horses shoes, so it's important to have the farrier put special snow pads under the horse's shoes. In addition, borium studs are added to their shoes to give the horse traction on icy patches on the trails.



Due to the extreme cold, Winter is not my favorite season. There are some pluses starting with the lack of annoying, biting bugs. Additionally, with the cold Winter temperatures horses and riders do remain much cooler. None of Winter's drawbacks, however, are enough to stop my friends and me from enjoying our daily, brisk trail rides.

We had some very special guests visit Connetquot, right before Christmas. Santa and Mrs Claus arrived by horse drawn carriage, thanks to Stephan and Melanie Rottach. The Claus' were gleefully greeted by the children creating a great photo op for their parents. Hosted by Connetquot River State Park Preserve and the Friends of Connetquot, the children enjoyed doing holiday crafts and listening to the Claus' read Christmas stories.

The 2025 Connetquot Annual Bridle Path Permits are now available for purchase. Please visit the Park office during regular business hours (7:30AM to 3:30PM) to purchase yours, if you plan to ride in the Park. Each Annual permit is \$60, cash or credit is accepted and you must show a valid ID. Daily permits are also available for purchase.

History Team Update

By Ritamarie Weigand

The History Team is finally down to three boxes of documents of the 80+ original boxes on the third floor of the Clubhouse. Each box has been assigned to a different volunteer to complete at their own pace. As these remaining volunteers love archiving the documents, it's almost sad for each of us to finish this phase of the project

Training has begun on the second phase of the History Project which is scanning the archived South Shore Sportsmen's Club books. On December 6, volunteers went to the Long Island Library Research Council in Bellport to be trained on their overhead scanner which is the only way to digitize the oversized books. Another training session has been scheduled for Friday, January 3, 2025. This would make our nearly 100 SSSC historic books available to anyone on the internet. Should a researcher need to see any of the books in person, arrangements can be made to accommodate that request in the presence of one of our volunteers.

Does this sound interesting to you? Contact us at www.friendsofconnetquot.org and join the History Team for this next phase of our historic project!

2024 Recap

By Janet Soley

2024 was another fantastic year for the Friends of Connetquot. We hosted amazing programs and entertaining speakers, and park patrons came out in droves this spring for I Love My Park Day and Fish & Wildlife Day in September.

The History Team, led by Ritamarie Weigand, had Long Island historians singing the praises of the Friends of Connetquot with our generous Day of Gifting. The PLEINATHON, co-hosted with the Islip Arts Council, was a fantastic day that brought many new visitors to Connetquot. Our Centennial Celebration was a delightful event, filled with joy and community spirit.


Moreover, the Engineering study on the New Annex building was completed, and we are now busily writing grant applications for the next phase of work needed. Park carpenters did an amazing job repairing the front and back porches of the New Annex, and it looks great!

The Interpretive Hatchery Exhibit opened this fall, and we couldn't be happier with the results. The Marsh Exhibit on the second floor of the clubhouse was also completed, and John Remmer and Craig Kessler are currently making the final cut on the accompanying video.



We are so proud of what we've accomplished in 2024 and look forward to many more exciting events and projects in the future. Here's to celebrating and preserving the natural beauty and history of Connetquot together!

Friends of Connetquot 2025-2027 Proposed Projects


Historic Artifacts Preservation and Restoration
Restoration of the many ledgers and scrapbooks of the SSSC. Create a digitizing center at Connetquot and take on this monumental effort




Accessibility
Design and build walkways alongside the Red and Yellow trails that are wheelchair accessible. Offer inclusive programming opportunities. Translate our Audio tour into Spanish

Interpretive Exhibitions
Provide patrons with information on the riverbank community of color, the history of fly fishing, club employees. Completion of the duck displays, and the Ice House



Campus Structures
Restoration of the New Annex, installation of a fish ladder, reclamation of clubhouse ladies sitting and reading rooms, Grist Mill maintenance



The 2024 Gala

By Ritamarie Weigand

Photo by Nicole Scialdone



The 2024 Friends of Connetquot Gala honored founding FOC member and Board of Directors Historian, Keith Snedecor. Keith is a 5th generation Snedecor, a direct descendant of Eliphalet, “Lief”, Snedecor founder of the original Snedecor’s Tavern in 1820 which still stands at the northern end of the Clubhouse. Keith’s knowledge of the history of the 3473 acres, known today as the Connetquot River State Park Preserve, is unsurpassed and he tirelessly works on the biographies of every SSSC member listed in our extensive records. For all that he has contributed to the Friends of Connetquot and the Connetquot River State Park Preserve, the FOC Board of Directors voted unanimously to honor Keith Snedecor with the 2024 Gil Bergen Preservationist Award.

The 2024 FOC Gala was proudly held at the Snapper Inn on the beautiful Connetquot River in Oakdale, NY on December 5. The festive atmosphere was enriched by the brilliant holiday decorations and Christmas trees throughout the halls, bar area and dining rooms. Half a dozen tables were set up in a separate room to display the numerous gala baskets and raffle prizes to be whisked off by their new lucky winners while raising funds for the continuation of the work being completed by the Friends at the Preserve in the coming year. The Gala is the Friends of Connetquot’s largest annual fundraiser.

This year the 100+ guests were serenaded by musician extraordinaire, Tommy Duck. Tommy plays locally, primarily in Bay Shore and Brightwaters. His repertoire was a delightful mix of classic rock, played softly, not to compete with dinner conversations. Tommy played in the background while waiters and waitresses were happy to serve drinks or passed appetizers. Guests were busy looking over the baskets and buying chances to win one, or several, precious prizes.

FOC’s Annual Gala has become perhaps the most enjoyable evening of our social calendar. Friends members mix and mingle with CRSPP staff, various other state parks management and personnel from assorted Long Island nonprofit agencies. FOC volunteer, John Lawton, brought a newly published copy of his father’s book, “River Whispers- Tales of Wildlife and Tranquility Along Long Island’s Connetquot River.” Many guests remember John’s father, Gary Lawton, who worked with Gil Bergen for nearly 40 years at the Connetquot River State Park Preserve. Gary explored the preserve, documenting rare plants and animal behavior, eventually starting the first environmental programs at the park. Look for an FOC author talk and book signing by Gary Lawton in April.

The awards took place immediately after dinner. In Keith’s prepared acceptance speech he indicated that he was pleased with the work the Friends and preserve staff do to maintain the park and was grateful to the FOC for the recognition of his ongoing contributions. Much to her surprise, Director of Historic Preservation, Ritamarie Weigand, was called to the podium by FOC President, Janet Soley, to be recognized for her work on FOC’s History Project. Letters from other historical societies were read regarding Ritamarie’s historical preservation work and a gorgeous bouquet was presented to her from the organization. Updates on the History Project can be reviewed in nearly every issue of FOC’s quarterly newsletter, “Comments on Connetquot.”

The Friends of Connetquot River State Park Preserve 2025 Gala is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2025. Save the date!

The Gil Bergen Preservation Award

The South Side Sportsmen's Club engaged Gil Bergen to work in 1945 as a sixteen-year old, where he first guided some of the members fishing. Gil spent the next 58 years as Park Manager of this beautiful 3,473-acre property, now known as the Connetquot River State Park Preserve until his passing on April 4, 2018 at age 89. His commitment to "keep a bit of Long Island the way it used to be" inspired the Friends of Connetquot to create the Gil Bergen Preservation Award, which was presented to him as the first recipient in 2013.

Persons eligible for this award through their stewardship must have:

- Displayed the highest level of commitment preservation efforts centered on our natural resources and historic sites and structures;
- Made notable contributions to educate, raise public awareness and inspire public and preservation community volunteerism;
- Demonstrated exceptional merit in the field of history/historic preservation and have created and/or enabled initiatives and opportunities for others to do likewise.

FOC would like to recognize the amazing individuals who we have bestowed this honor upon:

- 2013 - Gil Bergen
- 2014 - Carl Safina
- 2015 - Dr. Richard ("Doc") Steinberger
- 2016 - Fran Levesque
- 2017 - Jerry and Rita Trapani
- 2018 - No honoree - We honored the life and memory of Gil Bergen
- 2019 - Dr. Wayne Horsley
- 2020 - The Honorable Peter Fox Cohalan
- 2021 - No Honoree
- 2022 - John Remmer
- 2023 - Susanne Wuehler
- 2024 - Keith Snedecor

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2024 GALA SPONSORS AND DONORS!!



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Patchogue Theater
The Pizzeria
River Bay Outfitters
Save the Great South Bay
The Reisfield Family
Shandon Court
The Shed
Bob Simmons
Janet and Mark Soley
Keith Snedecor
The View
Wild Bird Unlimited
Susanne Wuehler

Holiday Activities!

By Janet Soley

Photos by Janet Soley and Carole Scialdone

If the Gala wasn't enough fun, Troop 205 from Great River visited Connetquot this December to decorate for the holiday season! How amazing that the calendars aligned so Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa occurred just Days apart!



Purple Martins - North America's Largest Swallows

By Ken Ernst

Photos by Ken Ernst and John Dilworth



Did you know, Connetquot Preserve is home to a colony of Purple Martins? Purple Martins are beautiful, graceful flyers that live in colonies, depend on man-made housing and feed exclusively on flying insects. (Although they are known to accept free meals of mealworms or scrambled eggs!). Martins overwinter in the Amazon Basin and start their spring migration into North America around the end of January, showing up in Florida in early February. Depending on weather and food supply the first Purple Martins, called scouts, arrive on Long Island around the first week of April to start their breeding season. Most Martins in this area start heading back south by the beginning of August.

The Preserve currently has two active gourd racks in the fields adjacent to the main house. The rack in the south field had a good season this year as it appeared most gourds were occupied, and many fledglings were spotted around the park. The rack in the north field suffered early from predation but appeared to have at least one successful breeding pair, which is a wonderful start and bodes well for next year. A pole guard was installed on this pole mid-season and there will be owl guards installed before the start of next. We are very excited that another 12-gourd rack will soon be up and running thanks to the generous donation of Jim Chinitz of Dix Hills. We are also hoping to move the Purple Martin houses from their current location into the fields near the gourd racks

Purple Martins are the largest of North American swallows, measuring about 7.5 to 8.5 inches in length with a wingspan of around 15-16 inches. Adult or After Second Year (ASY) males have a striking iridescent deep blue-purple color, while females are more subdued in color, displaying a mix of brownish gray with lighter underparts. Juveniles or what are referred to as Second Years (SY) resemble females, with duller coloration and less iridescence.

Purple Martins are highly social birds, are highly vocal using both songs and calls. Martins nest in colonies that range from a few pairs to hundreds of individuals. In the eastern U.S., these colonies almost exclusively rely on human-made housing, such as martin "condos" with multiple nesting cavities or gourd racks that have multiple gourds. These structures mimic the natural cavities that martins would have used historically, but with the advantage of better protection from predators and weather.

Although numerous and varied the vocal displays that are typically heard are just a handful. The male song is called croak-song and ends with a grating sound and open bill at the end. The female song is referred to as the chortle-song and is similar to the male song without the grating sound at the end. If you hang around a Martin colony, you are sure to hear the cher-call which is used by both sexes and makes up a lot of the daytime chatter that goes on. Other calls include the zweet-call used for both "stay away from my girl" and as a predator alert, the hee-hee-call used mostly among competing males and the juvenile-call made by young martins.

Soon after they arrive in the park, males start to claim nest cavities and start singing to the females. Competition can sometimes cause fights to break out between males for ownership of nests. As they start to pair up, females will start entering the cavities, checking out their new digs. Soon, nest building begins with mostly females bringing material for the nest. In our area, mid-May is the time SY birds start showing up and trying to figure out how things work. Once the Martins start carrying green leaves to the nest, egg laying is about to begin!

Female Purple Martins lay one egg a day for 4-7 days, with most nests having 4 or 5 eggs per clutch. [A clutch is a group of eggs a bird can lay and incubate in a single session]. Although incubation, which takes 15-18 days is only done by the female, both parents share the responsibility of feeding and caring for the young. After about 28 to 35 days, the chicks are ready to fledge, leaving the nest to join their parents in flight. Fledglings continue to rely on their parents for food for a short period before becoming fully independent. Once the fledglings are ready, both parents and young head for a local roost where hundreds or thousands of martins flock in the late summer. Some roosts get so large that they can be seen on doppler radar! Then the long journey back to the Amazon begins and for us, the waiting begins for the next season.



Save the Date! May 24th!

Ken will be giving a presentation on Purple Martins and will then lead a hike into the field for some observations!

Friends of Connetquot Launches a New Scholarship Program!

By Teresa Simeone

The Friends of Connetquot will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating High School Senior this school year!

To qualify for this scholarship, students applying for this scholarship must meet the following criteria:

1. Graduating high school in good standing with no discipline problems in Spring/Summer 2025 and will be attending a college or trade school in Fall/Winter 2025.
2. Complete 40 hours of service to the park addressing concerns in at least 3 of the following categories:
 - a. Aquaculture – Assist at the hatchery, whether it be grounds or river maintenance or fish stocking.
 - b. Environment – Participate in filed maintenance, clean-ups, plantings or invasive removal projects.
 - c. Education – Assist the Environmental Office in planned programs or create one of your own.
 - d. Historic Significance – Assist in informing the public about the history of the park, it's buildings or work with the History Team with Archival Materials.
 - e. Trails – Assist with Trail maintenance or projects as proposed by park staff, or creae a project tof your own.
 - f. Documentation of service will be signed off by an Administrator on forms that FOC will provide.
3. Submit a brief essay of 250 words minimum on the importance of Parks and Preserves in a modern and evolving society, and how CRSPP can continue to survive in this changing climate and culture.
4. Application deadline must be submitted with all completed paperwork by May 1, 2025 to Teresa Simeone at tersim4@aol.com

Does this interest you or a young adult you know? Application can be downloaded from our website or contact us at www.friendsofconnetquot.org

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

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January 1 - *First Day Hike*

January 11 - *Passport to Parks*

January 18 - *Long Island's Equestrian History*

January 25 - *Winter Celebration*

February 1 - *Lunar New Year Hike*

March 8 - *Fly Fishing Expo*

March 31 - *Club style fishing with the Friends*

April 5 – May 4 - *Gone Whaling Exhibit*

April 26 - *Long Island Radio & Television History*

April 27 – *River Whispers*

Discussion with the author and book signing

May 3 – *I ♥ My Park Day*

May 24th - *Purple Martins with
Park Ranger Ken Ernst*

June 6 - *PRIDE Lantern Walk*

June 30 - *Club style fishing with the Friends*

September 13 - *Women's Fishing Clinic*

September 21 - *Mindfulness Month
Forest Bathing*

October 5 - *Harvest Moon Celebration*

October 10 - 12 - *Connetquot Halloween*

October 17 - *Friends Fall Fishing Outing*

October 26 – *BIRDABILITY*

November 15 – *Indigenous Recognition*

December 4 – *Annual GALA*

December 14 – *Holiday Decorating*



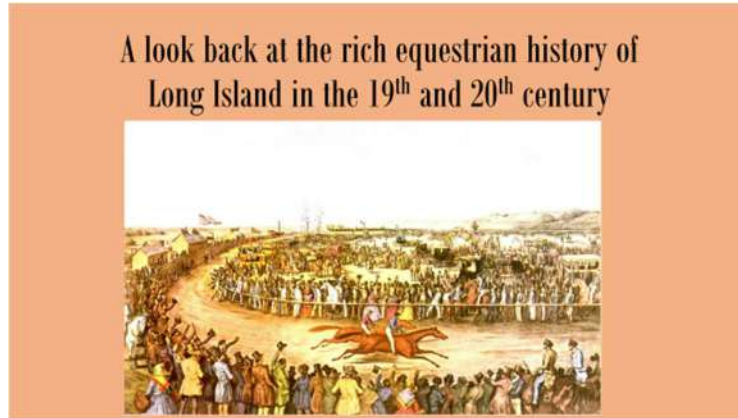
Register online at Friendsofconnetquot.org or Eventbrite

Friends of Connetquot Programs

Register at www.friendsofconnetquot.org

Long Island's Equestrian History

Saturday, January 18th at 1:00 pm



Jerry and Rita Trapani, lifelong equestrians, have created a look at the rich equestrian history on Long Island. Let's go on a trip back through time and see the racetracks, estates, parks and shows that have made Long Island one of the most important equestrian venues in the world. We'll also see how many celebrities and Olympic equestrians started right here on our small island. We'll look at polo and fox hunting and how they have changed over the years. Hop on the time machine and hold on tight.

Lunar New Year Program

11:00 am, Saturday, February 1, 2025



- 1st - we hike in the brisk February weather
- 2nd - we warm up with New Year soups and traditional sweets
- 3rd - Enjoy our Speaker - Dr. Tara Rider

Our Island's Story: The Natural History of Long Island:

What's intriguing about Long Island and our surrounding waters is that so much of the story happened in the last 12,000 years when humans were here. This talk will discuss the features that make Long Island's geology distinctive and have shaped the peoples who have inhabited this island. From salt marshes and cranberry bogs to hardwood forests and the Hempstead Plains, our Island has been continuously being reshaped, influencing our society today.

About our Speaker

Dr. Tara Rider is the Senior Lecturer and *Faculty Director, Environmental Studies*, Stony Brook University. Her research builds upon the debate in environmental studies regarding the role of nature and society. She is also the Director for Stony Brook University's International Academic Programs to Ireland England where students study not only the history of Ireland, but also use their travel experiences to better understand global environmental issues including climate change, renewable energy, and ocean resources.



Fishing with the Friends

Monday, March 31

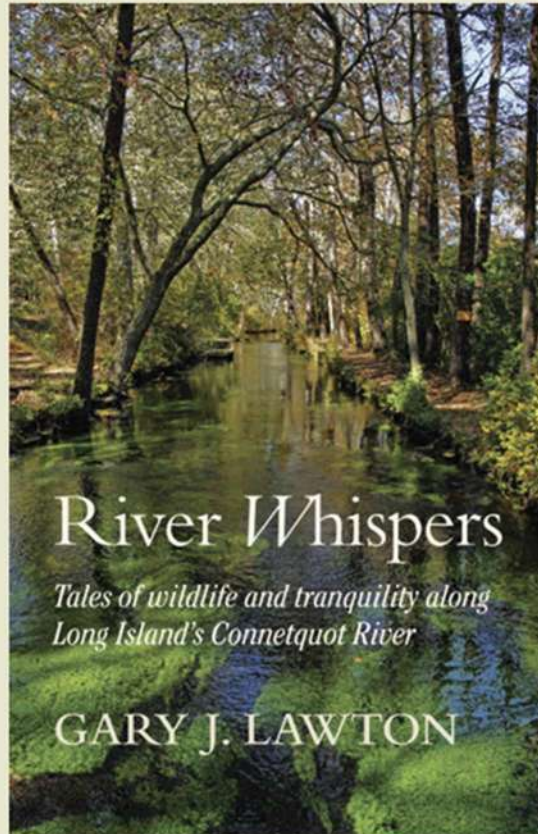
Club style fly fishing for **FOC Members ONLY**

Session 1: 8 am – noon

Session 2: noon – 3:30 pm

What's club style? There's no assigned beat! Walk the river from beat 1 to 30 and back again! This is a wonderful opportunity to try a site you've wondered about but didn't want to commit to! Two sessions are available at \$30 per session. There's a maximum of 25 spots per session. Purchase the day and we will supply lunch! Valid New York State Fresh Water Fishing License Required. Registration is open through March 26th.

Get Ready for our April Book Discussion with Author Gary Lawton!



River Whispers is a book by Gary Lawton, who worked with Gil Bergen at Connetquot River State Park Preserve for nearly 40 years. He spent countless hours exploring the preserve, sometimes finding vestiges of life from the 1800s, documenting the locations of rare plants, and watching ordinary animals exhibit extraordinary behaviors. Additionally, he conducted countless nature programs for schools, scouts, and the general public.

222 pages • \$19.59 • ISBN 979-8-9908571-0-0
Available on Amazon December, 2024

Great State Park Programs!

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

To make a reservation, visit [Eventbrite.com](https://www.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.

Bird and Breakfast: (Adult Program)

Saturday January 11th 8:00am ~ 11:00am

Join us at the preserve for a continental breakfast and a short indoor presentation on winter ducks. We'll then go on a guided walk throughout the preserve to see our feathered winter visitors. Binoculars are provided or bring your own! Dress for the weather.

Passport to Parks: Connetquot: (Family Program)

Saturday January 11th 10:00am ~ 12:00pm

Sunday January 19th 10:00 am – 12:30pm

Discover Long Island's State Parks in a monthly hiking series through every park on the island! This month's state park is Connetquot! This hike we will be on an accessible, flat, paved hiking trail. Approximately 2 miles. New participants will earn a passport booklet. Collect stickers at each state park to earn prizes!

Winter Celebration: (Children and Family Event)

Saturday January 25th 11:00am- 3:00pm

Discover the many wonders of winter! Experience hands on activities and science experiments. Stop by anytime during this free special event.

No reservations are required! Free Event!

History Letter Lecture & Clubhouse Tours: (Family Program)

Sunday February 2nd 11:30 am ~ 3:00pm

Celebrate NY History Month with us! Join us for a lecture about historic letters from the Southside Sportsmen's Club era from 11:30am-12:45pm. Then 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 during our 1pm Clubhouse Tour. Tours of the historic Nicoll Grist Mill are included and will be offered after your house tour. Recommended for children 8+.

Clubhouse Tours: (Family Program) Sundays 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Learn the history of the tavern and the high society club which shaped the Preserve into what it is today.

House tours can run up to 2 hours long. There will be a short talk outside before viewing the inside. Held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 1:00-3:00pm.

Full Moon Hike: (Adult Program)

Friday February 14th 5:45 ~ 8:00pm

Discover your nocturnal neighbors in a walk through the park at night. See how your senses change when the light fades! Dress for the weather and be prepared to hike 2-3 miles through the Preserve at night!

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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: March 15, 2025.

Send your files to Janet Soley at janetmariesoley@gmail.com



Many thanks to Santa; FOC Member Louis Kammer for his visit to Connetquot!
Photo by Serina Oliver

Visit us at www.friendsofconnetquot.org



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SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 8, 2025

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

RADISSON HOTEL, HAUPPAUGE, NY



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.

