



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to take a moment to thank all our “Friends” who volunteer to help at our functions and events. It takes a lot of people power to do things like park cars, monitor weddings, tend to our gardens and help with our “Bark Bash.” By the way, the Bark Bash returned after a 2 year hiatus was a tremendous success! Many thanks to Rachel Stepien, Jody Valdes and Kathleen York for their leadership. This month we had a volunteer recognition party at the Guest House. Our volunteers are super important!

In fact we need more volunteers, and we need someone to become our Volunteer coordinator. Unfortunately we were unable to hold our Annual Holiday Arts/Crafts show because we didn’t have a coordinator. Hopefully it can come back next year.

If you are a “Friends” member, which you probably are if you are reading this, please consider becoming a volunteer. Just contact Kathleen at admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org.

I want to thank the staff and our Board for supporting me during my time as president. My term ends this November. Vice President Dave Schifferle has graciously agreed to take over.

I know he will do a great job. I will always remain involved, as a volunteer!

JERRY IRVING
President



Annual Volunteer Dinner



Garden Club members putting the Gardens to rest for the season

Executive Director

KATHLEEN YORK

OPERATIONS MGR.

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JODY VALDES

JACOB MERRILL

DAVE NORTON

TYLER BAUER

SONIA TITO



HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN 2022

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT
SHOW IN 2023!**

Thank you for your past support
and your understanding.



As many of you know, it takes a tremendous amount of work to organize and produce a fundraising event like the annual Arts and Crafts Show here at Knox. With our efforts focused elsewhere in 2022, it became necessary to step back and assess the capacity of our staff and volunteers. With a little planning and reorganization, we will return in 2023 with the Arts and Crafts Show that you've come to love.

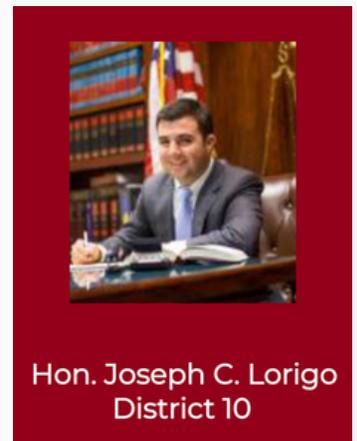
I alluded to several large financial gifts to The Friends of Knox Farm State Park in my Summer newsletter article. I am thrilled to update you on all three:



- East Aurora Music Fest designated Friends of Knox Farm as one of its beneficiaries from the proceeds of their Music Festival on June 11th. The Friends of Knox were the recipients of a \$6,000 gift from this event. This money has been earmarked to begin window repairs at the stables!



- Erie County Legislator, Joseph Lorigo, and Erie County granted The Friends of Knox Farm State Park an incredibly generous \$150,000 in September to accomplish several projects at the park. Part of this gift will be used to address the unsafe flooring issues in the stables. Another portion is set aside to utilize as a grant match to make repairs to the loggia room in the mansion. The remaining money is to be used to purchase a utility vehicle for The Friends; particularly for use by the Garden Club. We are grateful to County Legislator Lorigo for his commitment to the park.



- For the third year, Borderland Music Festival and Tito's Vodka have partnered to present The Friends with a \$10,000 check as part of their respective community outreach. As we turn our focus towards repairs and improvement on the stables, this money will be well utilized.



KATHLEEN YORK
Executive Director
admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org

Barn Update



If you have been visiting the park this summer, you can't help but notice all the work being done on the Show barn and Milk House. The state has brought on extra workers throughout the summer to accomplish this work. Much of the foundation and the interior bracing of the Show barn needed to be completely replaced.

This barn in particular has become a much bigger project than anticipated, but when finished, this barn will be structurally sound for many years to come.

Harold and his crew love to talk barns! Stop by and thank them for their hard work and attention to detail. Work will be slowing down with the weather but will continue next spring!





Honey Bee Report

::HONEYBEE REPORT; October 2022::

Hi Everyone!!

The two nucleus colonies we started in May are doing pretty well and I'm getting their health and hives prepped for winter. For those that may not know: most summer bees live only about 4-6 weeks!! They have a variety of jobs within the hive and each worker knows their task: nurse bees, foragers, guards, cleaners, builders, temperature control, and of course The Queen bee! There are drone (male) bees, however, they contribute NO productive help to the hive colony. In fact, as the hive prepares for winter, the drones all get kicked out and die. (sorry guys!)

At this time of year, the bees are focused on food preparation for the winter. They need a balanced amount of space in the hive with ample honey stores for winter. Supplemental feeding, moisture control, and proper ventilation are all important attributes to keeping a healthy colony alive and thriving through the winter.

The health of the colony going into the winter season is critical: controlling mites, disease, and intruders are very important at this time of year. The bees that are born in September and October are winter bees and they have a different genetic disposition to survive the long, winter months, in the hive. Here in WNY many things are against them with the cold, and snow, and long winter season so we do everything we can to give them a boost now:

- Supplemental feeding and health supplements
- Hive moisture systems and ventilation
- Entrance guards to keep mice and yellow jackets OUT
- Hive box wraps for insulation and wind protection

Keep your fingers crossed and with some luck both of our hives will survive the WNY winter. Statistically the results in our part of WNY are not great. The survival rate is only about 45%. The best beekeepers have reported up to ~80% survival. Here at Knox, we've had a GREAT fall presence of Goldenrod that helps with late nectar and pollen collection. The girls have been taking full advantage of the bounty our Knox environment provides! Shout out to the garden club for the broad variety of plants and flowers they manage on our property throughout the summer and fall growing season!!

In late July, our park intern, Alison, came to assist me with the inspection and health check of our bees. We checked both hives and looked for evidence of recent egg laying, brood, and honey stores. These are all signs that the queen is active and healthy, and the hive is functioning efficiently. The happy report here is that both hives were! At an earlier point in the season, I suspected that the hives had split and swarmed. This means the remaining bees had to restore a new queen so she could begin repopulating the colonies. Both hives had strong evidence that new queens were taking over and producing well.

Respectfully,

-jim

Friends of Knox Farm State Park Volunteer Beekeeper: [jyork12@rochester.rr.com](mailto: jyork12@rochester.rr.com)

Honey Bee Report



Allison is pulling a frame to inspect:
(July 2022)



This frame has a good balance of brood, larvae, eggs, & honey! Capped honey is in the upper right. Brood in the middle.
(July 2022)



This was from late September and the girls got a little bit rambunctious and built up some comb and honey stores ABOVE the frames we would normally like them to build it on!! We stripped this off and gave the honey back to them to store properly for winter! Bees are pretty good at being bees and if we let them be, they will do what bees do! What you see here is a pretty good representation of how they build in the wild. Note that (sadly) the top half of the comb was separated when I pulled the cover off which is why you see a cross section and exposed honey.

IRON GATE UPDATE

Did you notice that the light has been removed from the top of the iron gate to the events entrance? The State spent part of the summer running electricity from the stables to the front of the park at the entrance. The light fixture has been sent to California to be fitted with an LED light, and will be returned to us in the spring. More work to come on this entrance next year.

Friendly reminder:

This entrance is for access to the mansion, guest house and stables for guests and event vendors. Many volunteers also use this entrance to work at these properties as well. Please use the main parking lot (at the red barns) for general visitation and to limit traffic along these roadways. Thank you.





Garden Club

A super big thank you to all the gardeners who generously gave their time – and labor- to maintain almost 40 gardens around the mansion, guest house and secret garden! The Knox Garden Club has grown to 22 members this year allowing us to tackle some of the more neglected gardens. The guest house and secret garden benefited the most from the extra hands-with the guest house getting a complete overhaul with the help St. Bonaventure intern, Allison Lenda. Fall marks the end for the year for the Knox Garden Club as the growing season comes to an end. We will put the gardens to bed by pulling the ever-present weeds, mulching new plants to help them survive the winter and cutting back perennials among a multitude of other tasks. Not all perennials will be cut back; we will save those that add winter interest, provide insulation to their plant or offer a seed source or protection for overwintering birds and insects. During the winter months we'll curl up with a good garden catalog and think of spring!



<https://www.friendsofknoxfarm.org/volunteer-with-us.html>

LISA SCHIFFERLE
Friends of Knox Member



ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF KNOX FARM STATE PARK:

The Friends of Knox Farm State Park, inc. is a not-for-profit corporation. Our primary mission is to promote support, preserve, and protect the recreational facilities, natural habitats, permanent green space, and historic education and activities that develop an understanding and appreciation for the Park, nature, and environment. We work under a partnership with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to facilitate our mission.

**Membership information can be found at: www.friendsofknoxfarm.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 601 East Aurora, NY 14052
email: admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org**

2022 Rental Season

In 2021 we expanded our agreement with the state to include management of the Guest House and the Stables, (in addition to the Mansion). Our 2022 rental season has reflected this expansion with a huge variety of events at all three locations. We are grateful to Marcia McNallie, our Operations Manager, and Martha Augat, our Property Manager for bringing us through this transition so smoothly.

Special thanks to Deb and Ashley; our ladies who miraculously turn these properties around and clean them like new EVERY WEEK.

We are thrilled to be able to offer these properties as a unique option for so many gatherings. The revenue from all rentals helps maintain and improve these buildings.



Mansion-

- 28 weddings
- Roycroft Chamber Music Fest
- Wedding shower
- Yoga retreat
- Non-profit retreat
- Memorial service
- Wedding ceremony
- Parks & Trails conference
- Borderland VIP Party
- Corporate meeting
- Baptismal party
- Non-profit fundraiser
- Cultural/spiritual music retreat

Guest House-

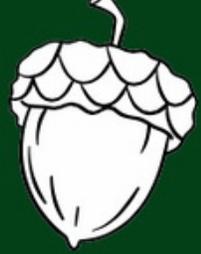
- 13 overnight rentals
- 3 daytime rentals - Corporate meetings and local filming.

Stables-

- Baby shower
- Wedding ceremony
- Sunset at The Stables Concert Series
- 42N Full Circle Fest
- Borderland Arts and Music Festival



Knox Farm State Park INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS *November - December 2022*



Saturday, November 12th
10:00am-12:00 pm
Woods, Woofs, and Walks



Treat yourself and your dog to a Saturday morning stroll led by a naturalist and her dog.

Call 716-282-5154 to register



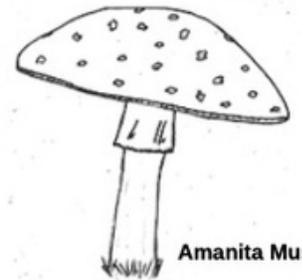
Red Oak Leaf

Wednesday, November 16th
10:00am-12:00pm
Autumn Tree I.D.

A hike through the fall woods to learn some basic tips and tricks to help you to identify trees even after they have lost their leaves!

Call 716-549-1050 to register

Wednesday, November 16th
1:00pm-3:00pm
Wednesday Woods Walk



Amanita Mushroom

The fall season is in full swing! Take a walk through Knox Farm as we search for autumnal happenings and signs of nature preparing for winter.

Call 716-549-1050 to register

Sunday, December 18th
10:00am-12:00pm
Knox Farm Christmas Bird Count

Be a part of the annual tradition and join us for our Knox Farm Christmas bird count! We will be birding as a group and both veteran and beginner birders are invited to join.

Call 716-549-1050 to register

Sunday, December 18th
1:00pm-3:00pm
A Naturalist's View: Winters Beginning

Bring your curiosity and sense of wonder as we go on a naturalist's saunter to explore the approaching start of the winter season. We will enjoy all we see, making observations, following our curiosity, and learning from each other.

Call 716-549-1050 to register

Scan the QR code to sign up for our eNewsletter and stay up to date with all of our office's programming!



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

www.parks.ny.gov



Friends - Please Share with anyone you may know who is looking for a unique venue to hold an event. Thank You!



WELCOME TO THE
Main House
AT KNOX FARM STATE PARK



This unique venue can be rented for
weddings,
corporate events,
private parties,
& fundraising events
May through October.



For more information, availability, and rates; please visit, friendsofknoxfarm.org/weddings