



*FRIENDS OF KNOX FARM*

# *Love-In-Bloom*

WEDDING SHOWCASE



THE MANSION AT KNOX FARM

**5.18.25**

10AM-4PM

DETAILS TO COME  
IN OUR NEXT ISSUE AND AT  
[FRIENDSOFKNOXFARM.ORG](http://FRIENDSOFKNOXFARM.ORG)

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**Friends of Knox Farm State Park**

PO Box 601 | East Aurora, NY 14052

FriendsOfKnoxFarm.org

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Winter is in full swing, and Dunkirk Dave did not see his shadow February 2. So, an early spring it is!

2024 was a terrific year of community programs, fundraisers, weddings, rentals, and more for the Friends of Knox Farm—starting with the sold-out EAclipse watch party in April and finishing with spectacular attendance at the 2024 Holiday Arts & Crafts Show in November. A nice finish to the season was the repaving of the road at The Stables by New York State Parks employees. And their efforts to keep the park roads clear and open this winter is greatly appreciated.

The Friends are looking forward to the “early spring” and another busy year with continued restoration plans at The Stables, plus Garden Club updates at The Mansion, Guest House, and Secret Garden. And we’re looking forward to hosting our first annual Love-In-Bloom Wedding Showcase on May 18, 2025. If you’re interested in volunteering for the event, please let us know! Special events and community programs will continue throughout the year, and plans are being set for the 2025 Holiday Arts & Crafts Show in November.

I can’t say it enough—a big thanks to all our volunteers, park employees, and members who help make this possible.

Dave Schifferle  
*President*



We are looking forward to hosting our first annual **Love-In-Bloom Wedding Showcase** on May 18, 2025! If you’re interested in volunteering for the event, please *let us know!*

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Winter at Knox Farm State Park is a time to enjoy some spectacular scenery, focus on organizational tasks, and plan for the coming seasons. The Board of Directors spent the morning together on a recent Saturday discussing our accounting practices, future projects, and opportunities for community engagement; as well as reviewing our strategic plan.

Your Board of Directors is dedicated to the park and to carrying out the Friends' mission. Every board member takes an active role in the decisions and implementation of our policies and programs. Please join me in thanking them for their dedication to the Friends.

Unlike most other nonprofit organizations, our Board of Directors is elected *by* our membership, giving *you* a direct voice about the park and its future. Input received from our members assists the Board in determining how best to attain our mission—to preserve and promote the recreational, historical, and cultural resources of Knox Farm State Park for the community and for generations to come. Membership drives our mission!

If your membership is current—THANK YOU! Your support is critical. If your membership has lapsed in the past year, keep an eye out in the mail in March for a reminder, and please consider renewing. Visit [FriendsOfKnoxFarm.org](https://FriendsOfKnoxFarm.org) to join or renew. Not sure if your membership is current? Email me at: [admin@FriendsOfKnoxFarm.org](mailto:admin@FriendsOfKnoxFarm.org). We hope to see you at the annual membership meeting in May!

Kathleen York  
*Executive Director*

*save the date*

**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025**

**I Love My Park Day**—the largest single-day volunteer event in NYS—presents a perfect opportunity to clean up our favorite parks, plant trees and gardens, restore trails and wildlife habitat, remove invasive species, and work on various site improvement projects—all of which help to prepare our iconic state park system and public lands for the start of the season.

In 2025, **I Love My Park Day** will be held on Saturday, May 3. Volunteer registration is anticipated to open in early April.

**A special THANK YOU  
to our community  
business members:**

- Borderland Arts & Music Festival
- Mind Squad HR
- Vidler's 5 & 10
- Aurora Dental Care
- Maple Hill Site, Inc.
- Martha 360° LLC
- PKK Wealth Management LLC
- Joe Cecconi's Chrysler Complex
- Towne Automotive Group
- Martha Buyer
- 42 North Brewing Company



**I LOVE  
MY PARK**  
*days*

# Knox Farm State Park

## INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

### MARCH - APRIL 2025



**Saturday, March 1st**  
**10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

### Art in the Park - Watercolor

Create your very own watercolor landscape. Use water from Knox Farm to create art inspired by the park!

Paints, brushes, and paper will be provided.  
Registration is required.



**Saturday, March 8th**  
**10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

### Hike Through History

Reminisce about years gone by. Take a leisure hike and discover the history of Knox Farm State Park.

Registration is required.



**Thursday, March 20th**  
**7:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

### Snowy with a Chance of Salamanders

With the return of spring, we will explore the spring pools and search under logs for spotted salamanders. For adults and children age 8 and older. Muck boots and flashlights are recommended.

Registration is required.



**Sunday, April 13th**  
**10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

### Blue Birding

Did you know that the Eastern Bluebird is the official bird of New York State? Enjoy a walk to observe the many nesting bluebirds of Knox Farm. Binoculars encouraged.

Registration is required.



**Tuesday, April 23rd**  
**8:00 PM - 9:30 PM**

### Pink Moon Walk

Enjoy an evening stroll through Knox Farm in search of nocturnal animals under the Pink Moon. Adults Only.

Flashlights are recommended.  
Registration is required.



**Saturday, April 26th**  
**8:00 PM - 9:30 PM**

### Amphibians - After Hours


Vernal pools are hopping with toads, frogs, and salamanders. Engage all your senses to discover these after hours amphibians. For ages 8 and older. Muck boots and flashlights are recommended.

Registration is required.



## Eventbrite



Registration is required for all programs. Please register on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search #knoxfarmstatepark or scan  the QR code.



New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation  
[www.parks.ny.gov](http://www.parks.ny.gov)

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



# Under the Snow

With the darkest days of winter behind us, temperatures are dropping to levels we haven't seen in a few years. You have to wonder, how animals stay active and survive these frigid temperatures?

One small mammal I enjoy watching in my own backyard is the eastern meadow vole. It's not a mouse, it's not a mole, it's a meadow vole! At first glance, meadow voles seem like a mouse. However, they have a shorter tail and ears that barely protrude past their fur. They create tunnels through the grass, underneath the snow. Often, these tunnels radiate from a large clump of grass, rocks, or brush pile. In this area, they create a small nest that is warmer than the outside air because of the snow insulation. During winter, Meadow voles will eat seeds, roots, and any plant parts they can find. When the snow melts in the spring, you may notice their "runways" or trails through the grass. These habits make them undesirable to many gardeners, but we need to remember meadow voles are a very important food source for hawks, owls, and red fox.

At the end of winter, when the ground thaws from nights of heavy rainfall, something magical happens in our forests. Usually in the middle of March,

spotted salamanders leave their underground burrows and make their way to their vernal pools or spring breeding pools. These pools are sometimes not larger than a car and often unnoticed within a mature forest. There is a narrow window of about a week where you can reliably see them in these pools. Spotted salamanders have lungs and need to come up for air periodically. They leave small, clear, gelatinous egg masses wrapped around a fallen tree branch underwater. Once the eggs are laid, the party is over until next year. The females immediately return to their underground burrows while the males may linger, but not for long. The rest of the year they spend in underground rodent burrows eating insects, worms, and other invertebrates. I will be leading a walk at Knox Farm in the middle of March in search of these brilliant amphibians.

Next time you are out on the trails of Knox Farm, keep an eye out for the meadow vole tunnels in the melting snow. If you are interested in joining me for a salamander walk, please register for "Snowy with a Chance of Salamanders" on [Eventbrite](#). Space is limited and registration is required.

Mike Adriaansen  
*Environmental Educator*



*Growing up to 9 inches long, and mostly black with bold yellow spots, spotted salamanders are a sight to behold.*

Friends of Knox State Park and NYS Parks Partnership:

# KNOX FARM PLANTING PROJECT

Improving the park one tree at a time

## HONOR A LOVED ONE- OR COMMEMORATE A SPECIAL EVENT.

### Plant a tree at the park:

Purchasing a tree as a gift to the park is the perfect way to remember special people and special occasions. Best of all, it supports the beauty and sustainability of the park. Your gift will be a lasting improvement to our landscape.

## WHY ARE WE LOSING TREES?

Many factors contribute to the need for trees at the park:

- Stress from insect infestations.
- Extreme weather conditions including drought, heavy rainfall and blizzards.
- Heavy recreational usage in certain areas.
- Natural attrition due to age and location.

## WHAT DOES MY TREE PURCHASE INCLUDE?

All donations are tax deductible and include:

- Cost of tree plus delivery, planting and maintenance.
- Tree wrap, stakes, irrigation bag, mulch.
- GPS coordinate of your tree once planted
- Engraved leaf plate to be placed on a memorial plaque inside Visitor's Center.

## DO I HAVE CHOICES?

Species and location decisions are ultimately a park decision:

Donors may choose between evergreen trees and deciduous trees. All trees planted at Knox will be mature, native species and will be planted within a pre-determined landscape plan. Plantings will occur twice a year; in the spring and fall. Species decisions may be determined due to seasonal availability.

**THIS PROGRAM IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NYS PARKS  
AND THE FRIENDS OF KNOX FARM STATE PARK, INC.**

Your stewardship of the park is greatly appreciated



Trees can be ordered online at:  
[www.friendsofknofarm.org](http://www.friendsofknofarm.org)  
or mailed to:

Friends of Knox Farm State Park, Inc.  
P.O. Box 601, East Aurora, NY 14052

Questions? email: [admin@friendsofknofarm.org](mailto:admin@friendsofknofarm.org)



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

# WEDDINGS & EVENT RENTALS

The historic properties at Knox Farm State Park offer unique and memorable spaces for weddings and events. Through an agreement with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the Friends of Knox Farm manage and maintain three buildings at Knox Farm State Park, including:

**THE MANSION**—From breathtaking weddings and successful fundraisers to exquisite Chamber Orchestra performances, The Mansion, patio, and lawns provide the perfect backdrop for a memorable event. Whether big or small, we can accommodate a variety of events, meetings, memorial services, showers, and more.

**THE GUEST HOUSE**—Available to rent for overnight accommodations or for smaller group events, such as showers, meetings, retreats, and more, The Guest House can accommodate 10–14 guests in 5 beautiful rooms, each with an ensuite. Or, rent the great room, dining room, kitchen, and patio for your next meeting or small gathering.

**THE STABLES**—History and innovation combine for a unique rental space at The Stables, where creative uses for this amazing building have ranged from Borderland Music & Arts Festival to 42 North’s Sunset at the Stables concerts and the EAclipse educational programming during the 2024 Total Eclipse.

The Friends have invested significant funds and thousands of hours of volunteer work into the revitalization and maintenance of these three magnificent properties. Proceeds from rentals are reinvested into restoration and maintenance initiatives throughout the park.

We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to events that will inspire connection, create memories, and leave a big impression!

Contact Marcia to discuss your wedding or rental at:  
[info@TheMansionAtKnoxFarm.org](mailto:info@TheMansionAtKnoxFarm.org)



*The Mansion*



*The Guest House*



*The Stables*



# Help our gardens Grow!

Our hard-working Garden Club volunteers are gearing up for spring cleanup and planting.

*Please help us get started by:*

- ❁ Donating much-needed tools from our Amazon Wish List ❁
- ❁ Volunteering to help ❁
- ❁ Donating to the Friends ❁

*Thank you for your support!*



## About the Friends of Knox Farm State Park

The Friends of Knox Farm State Park, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Our primary mission is to promote, support, preserve, and protect the recreational facilities, natural habitats, permanent green space, and historic assets of the park, and to develop an understanding and appreciation for the park, nature, and environment through programming and activities.

We work under a partnership with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) to facilitate our mission.



## Membership Drives Our Mission

All improvements, grants, programs, and activities begin with a strong membership base.

Your membership creates opportunities beyond the value of your yearly donation.

Please consider joining, upgrading, or renewing your membership today at: [FriendsOfKnoxFarm.org](http://FriendsOfKnoxFarm.org)

