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SONIA TITO



Friends of Knox Farm Presents their fifth annual

BARK BASH 2022

Knox Farm State Park - East Aurora NY
 August 6th 10am - 3pm (Rain or Shine)

Vendors

Rescues

Food Trucks

Free
ADMISSION

*We kindly ask for a \$5 donation per car, if possible!

Contests and Demonstrations!

Basket Raffle

Music



Sponsored in part by:



Well behaved, leashed dogs are welcome to attend!

www.friendsofknoxfarm.org

**Saturday August 6th, 2022**

Vendors and NPO's please visit:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/barkbash2022>Interested in volunteering? contact: rstepien1204@yahoo.com

President's reflections:

Recently while walking my dog in EA I noticed my neighbor wearing a Knox Farm sweatshirt. I complimented her on her style and she replied "I love Knox Farm Park!"

That comment made me reflect on how fortunate we are to have this 600+ acre refuge within a short walk or bike ride from where we live.

A generation ago, the farm was private property. My kids never got to hike there.

When the Knox family sold the estate to the people of the state of New York, many buildings and other infrastructure issues were in a state of decline. The state has worked hard over the past 20 years to maintain and improve the grounds, but the sheer number and scale of critical needs at Knox surpasses the state budget's ability to keep up. The Friends of Knox Farm State Park strives to fill that gap wherever possible through fundraising, grants, volunteer efforts, and community support.

We now have an excellent relationship with the NYS parks and with elected officials who influence funding for the park. We've come a long way and your park is better than ever!

The Friends have recently created a vision for our organization. It says essentially that we want to be a "resource" for the community so that the park can be used for recreational and educational opportunities for the community.

We are partnering with numerous community groups to provide events and activities that everyone can enjoy. This summer will be great.

Get out and enjoy this gem that's right in your backyard! And, while you do, please encourage your friends and neighbors to join our Friends group; (www.friendsofknoxfarm.org) Thanks.

JERRY IRVING
President

Welcome New Board Members



Sonia Tito

Two new members were elected to the board of directors at our annual meeting in May. We are happy to introduce Sonia Tito and Tyler Bauer. Sonia and Tyler both bring development experience to the board, and we are grateful for their enthusiasm and future contributions. Welcome both!



Tyler Bauer



Executive Director's Report

It's hard to believe it's only been a few months since the spring edition of this newsletter has gone out.

In April, the Friends Executive Board met with the leadership from NYS Parks, Niagara Region. Our relationship with NYS Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation is the foundation from which all Friends generated improvements happen at Knox. NYS Parks has continued barn renovations far beyond the original \$100,000 investment received from our organization. It is exciting to see new life given to these buildings; outside improvements are paving the way for adaptive reuse of several of the buildings.

Our 2022 annual meeting in May was an incredibly enjoyable evening, with exciting updates, great food, and the unveiling of the renovated Guest House. We have since begun renting the Guest House to wedding groups as a compliment to their experience at the Mansion. The combination of a wedding at the Mansion and the ability to lodge on premises makes for a truly special event.

There has been a tremendous amount of community support and involvement in 2022:

- Volunteer groups have made a huge impact on the grounds and gardens this spring. We are grateful for schools, businesses and organizations who designate Knox when fulfilling community hours.
- Roycroft Chamber Music Festival kicked off their season at the Mansion; always a perfect evening, and a great way to showcase the beautiful event space.
- The Friends were invited as "NPO of the week" to both Elm St. Farmer's Market and 42 North Community Nights. These events allow us to conduct outreach and bring in new members.
- East Aurora Music Fest designated Friends of Knox Farm as one of its beneficiaries from the proceeds of their incredible music festival on June 11th.
- Erie County Legislator, Joseph Lorigo has been working to help The Friends make a sizable investment in the park; (Details soon!)
- We took possession of a gazebo donation from East Aurora Driving Society in June. If you have not visited the gazebo yet, it is located inside the secret garden adjacent to the Mansion. It is a perfect fit for the space.
- Fisher Price spent several days recently filming a commercial for new products in the park. This filming included rental of the Guest House as a basecamp, and reestablished a relationship between the park and Fisher Price.
- Borderland Music Festival continuously supports The Friends and the park. They have donated tickets to our Bark Bash raffle (another reason to join us on August 6th!), and have once again connected us with Tito's Vodka, who will be making a donation to The Friends.
- 42North's rental of The Stables for their Full Circle event in May and Sunset Concert Series (1st four Fridays in July) provides us with income to reinvest in the park, an opportunity for outreach, and some really fun evenings.

I am asked by other Friends groups why our organization is so successful; **THIS IS WHY...**

The local community partners with The Friends of Knox Farm State Park in countless ways. All of them reflect the value this park holds for the people who use it. On behalf of the board, I offer our commitment to continue being good stewards of the park and of the investments made by its supporters.

KATHLEEN YORK
Executive Director
admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org

Bark Bash!

Come join The Friends of Knox Farm as they present their 5th annual Bark Bash! Enjoy the day while strolling through vendor tents, take your dog into the dog park, have lunch at one of the food trucks, or watch our agility demonstrations! Don't have a pup? You can look into adopting one through one of the many rescues that will be present.

Leashed, well behaved, and vaccinated dogs are encouraged to join you visiting the event! If you would like to donate a basket for our basket raffle - we would appreciate it! They can be dropped off August 1st through the 5th at the Executive Director's office located to the left of the entrance of the park.

If you would like to attend as a vendor, non profit, food truck, sponsor the event, or volunteer - please email knoxbarkbash@gmail.com

We would also like to take the time to thank our Top Dog Sponsor, Country Comfort Inn - Your Pet's Getaway for being our main sponsor for the FIFTH year in a row!

Details:

When: August 6th, 2022

Time: 10am-3pm

Please follow our facebook event entitled Bark Bash 2022 or check out our website for details. Can't wait to see you there!



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Sponsored in part by:

COUNTRY COMFORT INN
AT JAMISON ACRES
"YOUR PETS' GETAWAY"

Well behaved, leashed dogs are welcome to attend!

www.friendsofknoxfarm.org

We Have An Intern!



St Bonaventure intern; Allison Lenda

This report gets filed under the heading:
"Why didn't we do this sooner!"

Allison Lenda is currently an Environmental Studies Student at St. Bonaventure, and is spending her summer earning intern credits at Knox. Allison is working with several different individuals at the park for a very comprehensive experience. The Garden Club tasked Allison with renovating the gardens surrounding the Guest House, including planning, developing, and implementing the work. Allison has also been working with the Interpretive Program and Park Naturalist, Matt Nusstein, both at Knox and Evangola.

You might find Allison helping out in the Natural Resource Center, (greenhouse) with our horticulturalist, Payton Iacobucci.

And on rainy days? You can find her in my office doing tech support.

Allison's self-motivation and work ethic have made for a wonderful intern experience. Thanks Allison!



Honey Bee Report

Hi Everyone!!

A quick overview for those that missed the April Newsletter report:

We installed two nucleus colonies in May and transferred them into their permanent Knox Farm Hives in May. In a short matter of weeks they rapidly expanded from 5 working frames as-delivered (per colony) into 16 full deep frames PLUS 8 half-deep honey frames! That's awesome!! Knox Farm is a very happy place for these pollinators! We have them safely tucked into the old tennis court area which helps keep some of the troublemakers for honeybees out. If you ever want a closer inspection or interaction with the 'girls' please let me know and I'm happy to host an interactive visit. Knox owns two protective suits and I have my own gear so we can get you close and keep you and the honeybees safe!!

We recently conducted two full hive inspections. The first was with a Cornell Certified Master Beekeeper and the second was with a NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets Inspector checking for disease and overall health. Both checks were very positive and reinforced we have happy, healthy honeybee colonies. In addition to these assisted inspections I have taken an interactive instructional course from Masterson's Garden Center on hive inspection practices to supplement my understanding of process and what to look for. Hive inspections are generally conducted about once every two weeks and this is based on the life cycle of the honeybee and the associated aspects of colony productivity.

However, there are a couple of things I am keeping a close eye on: swarming and Varroa mite infestations.

A swarm often takes place when the hive gets too crowded and about half the bees leave with the resident queen leaving the original colony to raise a new queen who must then mate to quickly begin rebuilding the health of the colony. Swarming is not necessarily a bad thing.... It's just a time of risk for both the departing and remaining bees. If you ever see a swarm or cluster of bees....do not fear....they are at the most docile phase they can be at, and are only resting on the way to a new home. Please contact me if you ever see a swarm cluster and have a question!!! Do not be concerned!!! They are harmless and many beekeepers are VERY happy to come and collect them for you!

The mite problem is a different type of risk and must generally be treated with organic treatments. If not treated, the health of the colony is greatly reduced and they have no chance of surviving the winter months. I rely heavily on Cornell and local advice from our good friends at Masterson's Garden Center for wisdom on treatment methodology.

I welcome your thoughts, advice and questions about the program and look forward to reporting future status! Thanks in advance for your interest and support!

Respectfully,

-jim

Friends of Knox Farm State Park Volunteer Beekeeper: jyork12@rochester.rr.com



Garden Club

Spring has been a flurry of activity in the gardens this year! Helping the Knox Garden Club ready the beds for the coming season were FOUR volunteer events this spring contributing over 125 man-hours in the gardens! Queen City Revival, a young professional volunteer group, kicked off our season by cleaning and edging the beds around the mansion and clearing a truckload of debris! Love My Parks Day Volunteers raked and mulched the flower beds around the mansion and guesthouse. East Aurora High School Students tackled many jobs for their day of community service. They were able to edge and mulch the secret garden, clean the dog runs, shed and parking lot along with plenty of odds and ends. Freed Maxick interns planted annuals and freshened up a few beds – weeding and adding mulch. These events help the Knox Garden Club Volunteers maintain the gardens-allowing us to hit the ground running!

The East Aurora Driving Club donated a gazebo that is the picture -perfect addition to the secret garden. During a very hot week in May, volunteers, Dan Missert and Bob Injaychock, installed pavers to widen the base the gazebo would sit on. Knox Park employees, along with even more volunteers, brought the gazebo up from the polo fields placing it in the secret garden.

All the groups worked extremely hard and were a pleasure to work with! To all our volunteers, we cannot thank you enough!

Volunteers have been and continue to be instrumental in enhancing the park. If you would like to volunteer – for one event or all season long- we'd love to have you help make Knox Farm State Park the finest in the New York State! <https://www.friendsofknoxfarm.org/volunteer-with-us.html>



LISA SCHIFFERLE
Friends of Knox Member



Guest House Updates

After a year and seven months of investment in time, materials, volunteer efforts and Parks partnership, we are VERY excited to say the Guest House is ready for occupancy!!

We've begun offering this beautiful home as a lodging option for bridal couples and their guests during wedding weekends. Our first guests loved the house and found everything to be convenient and comfortable within the wonderful park atmosphere.

Friends of Knox members who toured the guesthouse during our annual meeting last month were excited to see the before and after pictures and happy to see the transformation to this homey lodging. Just a few more items need to be finished on the outside including the installation of gutters and reworking the landscaping around the garage.

Highlighted below are the improvements and repairs.

- New roof
- New HVAC system with separate room controls.
- New hot water system
- Addition of water pump/storage tank
(to insure adequate water pressure for lodging guests.)
- Complete scraping and painting of exterior. (40+ Gallons of paint)
- All windows re-glazed and storm windows repaired
- New ceilings in dining and living room.
- Patching and painting of all interior rooms.
- Entire new kitchen
- New fire alarm system
- Tile work in bathrooms as well as installed exhaust fans
- Remodel of bathroom off kitchen to be ADA compliant
- Complete furnishing of all living spaces.
- New garage doors and outside coach lights
- Laundry room off kitchen
- New locks and keypad entry on main door.



We are extremely proud of this accomplishment and excited to share it with you.

2022 Mansion Rental Season

Rental Season is in full swing! We started off with the busiest May we've ever had in the ten years The Friends have had an agreement with NYS Parks.

The Guest House is rented for ten weekends so far this year by folks who have rented the mansion. As you can imagine, it is becoming very popular!

Next year is already halfway booked at the mansion and a bunch of dates are penciled! If you are planning an event next year, please email info@themansionatknoxfarm.org for more information so you don't lose out.

Individuals and organizations rent out the mansion not only for weddings, but baptismal parties, retreats, fundraisers, showers, VIP parties, memorial receptions and birthday parties. In addition to the mansion, we have started renting out the stables this year. So far we have a shower and wedding ceremony booked in addition to the Sunset Music Series, Town of Aurora Day Camp and Borderland.

MARCIA MCNALLIE
Operations Manager

Mansion Monitors needed:

There are still a few opportunities for Mansion Monitors during the 2022 wedding season. This is a fun way to volunteer with The Friends of Knox Farm State Park. Spend an evening assisting wedding guests; (responsibilities include directing guests to the restrooms, and closing up at the end of the evening). If you are considering a wedding here in the future; this is a great way to help The Friends while experiencing the magic of a wedding at Knox.

For available dates please contact:
info@themansionatknoxfarm.org



Gazebo News

The East Aurora Driving Society's, Gazebo Donation

By Liz O'Donnell

The East Aurora Driving Society, (EADS) was organized in 1979 to promote pleasure driving, the collection, restoration & preservation of horse drawn vehicles, and the history of the horse industry in East Aurora at the turn of the last century. As a result, Mr Seymour Knox II generously offered the use of his polo field to host the annual East Aurora Carriage Drive & Competition.

As the competition grew the EADS built & purchased equipment to enhance the setting and ambience of the obstacle courses for the enjoyment for the public. In 2004 a wooden covered bridge was added to the site; in 2006 the Neil Chur family donated the funds to drain the wet area at the west end of the Polo field to build the Neil & Barbara Chur Family Equestrian Center and in 2010 the EADS purchased a beautiful gazebo to be used as the announcer's and judge's stand.

During the competition, the Equestrian Center was decorated with scores of potted flowers and shrubs to recreate a feeling from the past. This event was an opportunity for the public to take a step back to an earlier time and enjoy watching the handsome horses and beautiful carriages as they performed in the rings and through the country estates around East Aurora.

Over the forty-five years span the East Aurora Carriage Drive & Competition was sponsored by the many generous local business owners & friends of the equine sports. Due to the changes in the economy, and lack of volunteers to host equine events, sadly the East Aurora Driving Society is disbanding and disbursing its equipment. As a Thank You to those who made this event possible, the EADS donated the gazebo to the Friends of Knox Farm Sate Park so that it will continue to enhance community activities at Knox Park. On June 17th, it was placed in its permanent location in the garden by the Knox Mansion.



Knox Nature News

Knox Nature News

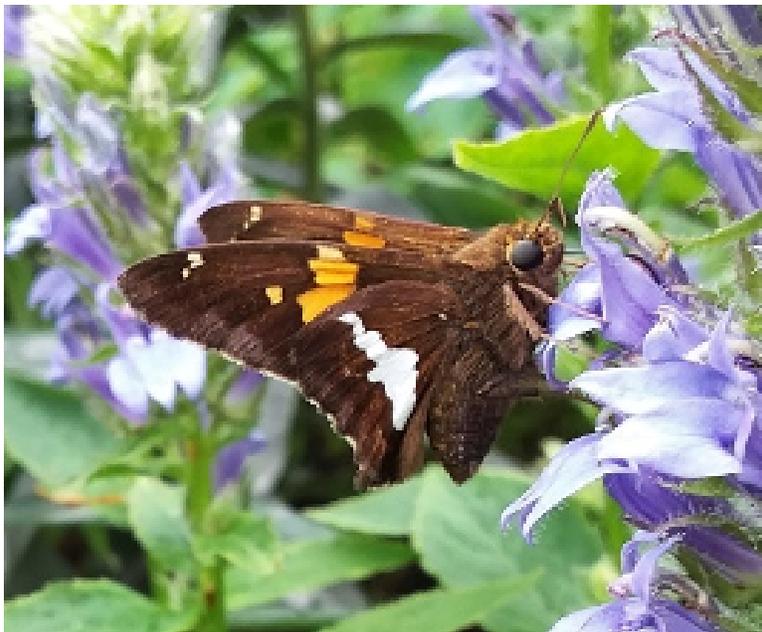
Gardening for pollinators is a topic that most of us are familiar with nowadays. The nationwide push for planting natives and transforming our backyards into a pollinator oasis is an excellent way to give back to the environment. Many of us have already started this noble quest and the results are proving themselves. For those of you who haven't begun a pollinator project or for those looking for more information, below are a few things to keep in mind to maximize your efforts.

The first step in planning your garden is to determine the area you are going to use. In your gardens first year it is probably best to keep things to a manageable size. Too big of a garden and you may find yourself overwhelmed by the upkeep and maintenance. After year 2-3, when your original plot is well established, you can begin to plan your expansion. You will want to use a variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall. This will ensure your garden is used all season and your pollinators will always have a reliable food source. Often overlooked are night-blooming plants. These flowers will support many species of moths.

Remember what looks beautiful to us may not actually be helpful for pollinators. Many modern hybrid flowers, especially those with "doubled" flowers, have been bred for looks, but unwittingly pollen, nectar, and fragrance are bred out of the plants. This should go without saying but always plant natives! Your local pollinators evolved with local plants and as such are the best choice for your garden. These plants will also be suited to your region's climate. Planting natives also means you should include larval host plants in your landscape. If you want beautiful butterflies, you should grow host plants for their caterpillars.

Eliminating pesticide use may be the most important factor for your garden. If you can't get around using a pesticide, use the least-toxic material possible. Pesticides typically have a cascade of negative effects, and all your hard work could be undone. Many people enjoy adding nectar feeders to their gardens. If you do so beware, never use artificial sweeteners, honey, or fruit juices as these can be unintentionally harmful to your pollinators. To make your own safe nectar, use four parts water to one part table sugar. Always be sure to clean your feeder with hot soapy water, at least twice a week, to keep it free of harmful molds.

Lastly, have fun with your garden! Make it your own and create a personal retreat that you can also enjoy. Gardening for pollinators is one of the most rewarding activities you can do and the satisfaction of knowing you're doing your part to help save these important creatures is probably all you need. So what are you waiting for!? Head out and start your very own pollinator paradise.



MATT NUSSTEIN
Park Naturalist



Knox Farm State Park INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS *July - August 2022*



Saturday July 23rd
10:00am-12:00 pm
Young Birders Walk

Calling all young birders! Join the New York State Parks and the Western New York Young Birders Club for a morning bird walk through Knox Farm. This is a family-friendly birding experience for new birders ages 1-18.



Bobolink

Call 716-549-1050 to register

Saturday July 23rd
1:00pm-3:30pm
Butterfly Beauties

Enjoy a relaxing walk through the wildflower meadow of Knox Farm to explore the rich diversity of butterflies in the park.

Call 716-549-1050 to register

Saturday July 27th
1:00pm-3:00pm
A Naturalist's View: Hand-lenses



Tree Hopper

Bring your favorite hand-lens, curiosity and sense of wonder as we go on a naturalist's saunter to explore the small creatures of the woods. We will enjoy all we see, making observations, following our curiosity, and learning from each other. Whether you are an experienced naturalist or just starting out this series is for you!

Call 716-549-1050 to register

Wednesday August 10th
5:00pm-6:30 pm
Tails on Trails

Unwind after work by enjoying a leisurely walk with your dog and a park naturalist! While it is not necessary to have a dog to participate, all dogs in attendance must be up-to-date on immunizations, leashed, and under control.



Call 716-282-5154 to register





Knox Farm State Park INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS *July - August 2022*



Thursday August 11th

8:30pm-10:30 pm

A Naturalist's View: The Night Sky

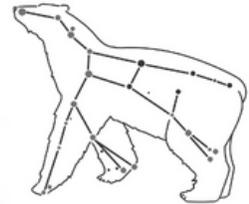
Bring your curiosity and sense of wonder as we go on a naturalist's saunter to enjoy the night sky. The moon, constellations and hopefully glimpses of the Perseid Meteor Shower will be enjoyed.

Call 716-549-1050 to register

Wednesday August 31st

10:00am-1:30pm

Waterfall Walk



Ursa Major

Embark on a journey to Knox Falls. This is an intermediate level hike for those who enjoy the thrill of a more demanding nature walk. Bring a bagged lunch, water and sturdy footwear.

Call 716-549-1050 to register



North American Porcupine



Striped Skunk



Virginia Opossum



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



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.friendsofknoxfarm.org
or mailed to:

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

Questions? email: admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

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



Friends, Please be Aware
A gentle reminder to please leash
and clean up after your dog.



Your Input Matters

We would like to hear from you. If you have thoughts about the park that you would like to share with the Friends Board of Directors and the readers of this newsletter, email them to us at admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org We will include them in a future issue of the newsletter as space permits.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> PREMIER \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PATRON \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS \$250 |

For VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES or TO JOIN ONLINE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.friendsofknoxfarm.org

*Business members are listed and linked on our website

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 programs and activities that develop an understanding and appreciation for the Park, nature and the environment. We work under a partnership with New York State Office of Parks and Recreation to facilitate our mission.