



Dyken Pond-erings

Newsletter of the Friends of the Dyken Pond Center

Issue 11

Promoting environmental awareness in people of all ages

Winter 2009

Dyken Pond Environmental
Education Center
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Otter Cove Land Appeal

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Our Otter Cove Appeal is gaining momentum, and each obstacle encountered along the way seems to only strengthen the vision and resolve of the Friends of The Dyken Pond Center. Anyone who has walked the perimeter of this 23-acre parcel, directly adjacent to the Center lands, can immediately see the possibilities that would come from its preservation. The 1,100 feet of shoreline holds enormous potential for our education programs, and that particular landscape would introduce an entirely new set of ecological dynamics for learning and low-impact enjoyment.

You can take the Otter Cove Trail (keep an eye out for the yellow tree blazes) that runs alongside this wonderful piece of land. During these winter months, the lack of foliage and the elevation of the terrain provide a great view of the lake. When acquired, the existing Otter Creek Trail would then loop back along the shoreline as it makes its way back to Cabin 1 and the canoe dock. This will make for an absolutely stunning evening stroll!

By acquiring this critical natural buffer for our Center, we will prevent it from being developed and thus preserve the overall natural experience we have worked so hard to achieve over so many years. The Friends are seeking to purchase the property by the end of April, and the cost is \$100,000. Our hopes for a NYS Parks and Recreation grant for half that amount may not happen due to the State's fiscal situation, and we are con- signed to work off that assumption.

Now for the good news: Since September the Friends have raised \$26,000 and we are pre-

approved for an interest-free loan for up to \$90,000 from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation! Our board members have pledged a total of \$16,000 of their own dollars as collateral for the loan, and so we will be able to move forward with the loan and thus the purchase. However, we will still need to repay the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, and we are exploring every avenue, including foundations, grants and fundrais- ers to raise as much money as we possibly can in the next year. We need your support now. In the spirit of everything this group is dedicated to, we ask you to make a contri- bution to the land appeal. Any donation made before April will help reduce the amount the Friends will need to borrow on the loan. Together we can preserve a piece of Rensselaer County and make a difference at a place we all enjoy going!

We want to thank everyone who has generously contributed already. The outpouring of support we have received is inspiring. We go forward knowing that we have strong support from our members and our community, and because of that, we are assured of success. Thank you all.

Also in this issue:

- ▲ Wildlife Tracking
- ▲ Birdseed sale 2/28/09
- ▲ Public Service Ideas
- ▲ Upcoming fundraising
- ▲ 2008 Financial report

Memories of a Tracking Experience at Dyken Pond

by John Deignan

It was all of seven degrees when I sheepishly left my warm and cozy house in mid-January for my first foray into the world of wildlife tracking. Driving down the long access road to Dyken Pond, I could hear the snow groaning beneath my wheels, which reminded me of a friend who once speculated that such sound was actually the snowflakes complaining about their being crushed. The Inuit would go so far as to coin a special word for such squeaking snow - "atairranaqtuq" (don't ask me how it's pronounced!). Arriving at the center, I met local tracker, Dan Yacobellis whose exceptionally warm looking hat not only made me envious but served as a wake-up call that (true to form) I may have come to yet another affair under-dressed.

Thankfully, I was able to avail myself of some of Dyken Pond's snowshoes as my work boots would offer me little insulation or comfort over the next several hours. Several young people also signed on, and they too had come properly outfitted for the temperature. And while the woods would shelter us from a great deal of the wind, I would be reminded of the penalty for going out without the proper protection.

Thankfully, the day began inside with a primer on tracking fundamentals and the different motivations and interests that make tracking such an enjoyable practice. As Dan says, "tracking is the story of the forest," and it can help us see the obvious and not so obvious connections that exist in an ecosystem. And from those connections comes a more integrated understanding of our environment and our role in it. As an introductory class, we focused primarily on the tracks them-



selves, but discussed how a tracker will be constantly shifting perspectives to include browse, rub, scat and other more peripheral sign to piece together a more complete picture of what occurred there even just a few hours before.

Venturing back outside, we were barely twenty yards down the trail when we saw our first set of tracks. Taking in the animal's trail, pattern, gait, and examining its stride, we all began speculating what could have made the prints, and under what conditions did it take the path it did. We discovered that it was very easy for our collective imaginations to get the better of us, and several times our patient guide steer us back on course by prompting us to look for more enlightening clues.

One set of tracks gave way to an intersection of a second set, which eventually took us down a shallow ravine to the remains of an overturned 55 gallon drum where two porcupines were in residence. Yacobellis described how their proximity to the surrounding hemlock – their food source – was no coincidence. We would later go on to discover short-tail weasel tracks, white-tail deer, the probable wing/fan pattern of a bird of prey and the erratic loping gate of a fisher. And with each new set of prints came a new discussion and more questions as to how the animal was relating to its world at that moment, which then gave way to even more questions about the food, shelter, predation, mating, and on and on to ever more concentric circles of inquiry.

In his book "Tracking and the Art of Seeing" Paul Rezendes speaks of the next level of understanding for us would-be trackers when he writes: "Following an animal's trail may bring you closer to the animal physically, but, more important, it brings you closer to it in perception. The longer you follow the animal, the deeper you enter into a perceptual relationship with its life. If you spend time learning about the animal and its ways, you may be able to find the next track without looking."

By the time our own tracks ended at the boardwalk later that afternoon, my feet were numb, but my imagination was on fire, and was well worth the price. Driving home later that afternoon with the heater cranked on my feet, the snow was still groaning. For a moment, I thought I heard it interrogating me, "so, what tracks will you leave on this world and what will they say about how you related to your terrain?"

Call the Center for dates of future tracking events.

BIRD SEED FUNDRAISER

03/07/09

Our bird loving friends have ask us to repeat the bird seed sale so here it is: This time you don't need to pre-pay, just pre-order and pay on the pick-up date.

Order by 2/27/09

Phone in your order: 658-2055

Email your order: btreiber@nycap.rr.com

Come pick up and pay at Capital Agway in Brunswick, Rt 7 From 9-12 Sat. March 7th

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER

Thinner shell plus higher oil content creates more energy for birds.
50 lb. bag \$29

PREMIUM MIXED

Superior mix including 30% sunflower, peanut bits, safflower, and millet.
40 lb. bag \$20

NIGER (THISTLE)

Small seed with high oil content favored by goldfinches.

20 lb. bag \$28

PEANUT HEARTS

Tasty morsels, high in fat, to give birds more energy in cold spells.
\$1.50 per pound- we'll fill the bag

SAFFLOWER

Alternative, high energy treat enjoyed by cardinals.

20 lb. bag \$25

CRACKED CORN

50lb. bag \$16

SUNFLOWER HEARTS

20 lb. bag \$26

WOODPECKER BLEND

20 lb. bag \$35

CARDINAL BLEND

15 lb. bag \$22

HI ENERGY SUET CAKE

Each cake \$2.00

WIRE BASKET FOR SUET CAKES

\$5.00



VOLUNTERISM & CIVIC DUTY

President Obama has called on all citizens to step up and volunteer their time to help our nation. If you or your group would like to make a meaningful difference in the local area, consider a project at Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center. The Friends group will be looking for volunteers for many projects this Spring and Summer. We will also be holding several fundraisers this year as we continue to raise needed funds for the Otter Cove appeal. If you or your scout group, church or school group or family can help out for a day please call Lisa at the Center for project ideas. A donation of time is worth as much as a monetary donation. Together we can make a difference.



FRIENDS FUNDRAISERS IN 2008

This year we will be holding many fundraisers as we continue to raise money for the Otter Cover Appeal and support for the environmental center. The board welcomes all Friends to join us in our efforts. Call any board member or the Center to participate.

Flyers and dates will follow in the mail, newsletters or by email.

▲ ***Benefit Concert:*** Our benefit concert scheduled on 1/3/09 was un-expectantly cancelled by Northern Lights. Thank you if you showed up and we apologize for not being given any notice by the venue. We will be rescheduling this Spring as the bands are still willing to donate their time to our cause.

▲ ***Great Escape Discount Tickets:*** Don't buy your season pass until you check out our deal! We are selling advanced day tickets for \$19.99 then you will be eligible for a discount on a season pass or return visit. Make copies of the enclosed flyer and start asking your friends and family now if they would like to go to the Great Escape this May so they can purchase a ticket which will benefit the Friends.

▲ ***Cabot Cheese:*** Who doesn't like cheese? Cabot offers a selection of items for group fundraisers. With graduation parties and family gatherings coming up we will have a variety of selections.

▲ ***T-Shirt Sale:*** Earth Day shirts with a frog and our logo: order in March for April pick-up. We will have more great selections of shirts from the Earth, Sun, Moon series to pre-order in April and pick up in June.

▲ ***On-line Auction:*** We will be auctioning off an outdoor, sport item such as a kayak or canoe.

▲ ***Bird Seed Sale:*** Now in its 18th year, we will offer a winter and fall sale. Enjoy your hobby of bird watching and support the Friends.

▲ ***Holiday Wreaths:*** Plan for your holiday decorating and pre-order balsam wreaths from the Friends. Place your order in November for pick-up in the beginning of December.

▲ ***Recycle Ink jet cartridges:*** This on-going collection of ink jet cartridges and used electronics will be a way to help the Friends and the environment. Ask your co-workers, friends and relatives to bring them to you. Then bring them to the Center next time you visit. Call or visit our website for more details.

Please call us with your suggestions!

Friends of The Dyken Pond Center, LTD. 2008 Treasurer's Report - Year End

Account Balances

<i>Account Name</i>	<i>Balance</i>
CD	\$789.01
Petty Cash	\$82.41
Sefcu Checking	\$9,288.20
Sefcu Preferred Savings	\$27,505.28
Sefcu Regular Savings	\$68.63
Total Bank Assets	\$37,733.53
Total Allocated Funds	\$31,658.36
Available Funds	\$6,075.17

Allocated Funds

<i>Name</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Cabin 3 restoration & pavilion	\$542.18
Edward's Endowment	\$500.00
Rough Riders Program	\$2,679.47
Scholarship Fund	\$1,405.00
Equipment/Repairs	\$1,805.69
Natural Areas Book	\$45.00
Plant Community Book	\$420.00
Programs Donations	\$1,000.00
T-Shirt Sales 2006	\$548.39
Tom Wessels Book	\$40.00
T-Shirt Sales 2007	\$371.46
Program Material Fund	\$2,301.42
T-Shirt Sales 2008	\$259.97
SOLA 2008	\$1,729.78
RPA	\$100.00
Otter Cove Appeal	\$17,910.00

2008 Spending Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Accounting, Filing Fees	\$0.00	\$490.00
Alcott Feb '08	\$830.00	\$800.00
Annual Meeting Dinner	\$444.00	\$345.00
Bank Fees	\$0.00	\$5.00
Bank Interest	\$415.24	\$0.00
Bird Seed Sale 2008	\$5,091.50	\$4,080.45
Brunswick Property	\$0.00	\$53.97
Capture the Flag	\$300.00	\$0.00
DEC Camp	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
Donations	\$2,650.00	\$0.00
Fire Making 2008	\$65.00	\$0.00
Grafton PILOT	\$0.00	\$250.00
Insurance	\$0.00	\$774.41
Kayaking 2008	\$70.00	\$0.00
Land Appeal	\$0.00	\$1,289.32
Late Fee	\$0.00	\$10.00
Membership	\$3,305.00	\$0.00
Membership - Joined	\$0.00	\$30.00
Misc	\$0.00	\$991.95
Otter Cove Parcel	\$17,910.00	\$2,344.91
Postage	\$0.00	\$1,047.37
Printing & Copies	\$0.00	\$7.48
Refreshments/Supplies for events	\$0.00	\$62.59
RPA	\$175.00	\$75.00
Sales Items	\$895.00	\$635.03
Summer Outdoor Learning Adventure	\$6,870.00	\$5,215.16
Supplies	\$0.00	\$52.28
The art of tracking	\$20.00	\$20.00
Wild Edibles	\$349.00	\$350.00

Wreath Sale Deposit in 2009 \$7.53

Allocated Fund Transactions

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
Otter Cove Appeal	\$17,910.00	\$0.00
Rough Riders Program	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
RPA	\$175.00	\$75.00
Scholarship Fund	\$750.00	\$0.00
SOLA 2007	\$0.00	\$74.94
SOLA 2008	\$6,870.00	\$5,140.22
T-Shirt Sales 2008	\$895.00	\$635.03



Friends of the Dyken Pond Center

**JOIN US FOR THE GREAT ESCAPE & SPLASHWATER KINGDOM FUNDRAISER
SPRING SPIN: ONE GOOD TURN TO BENEFIT ANOTHER™**

Saturday, May 9 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, May 10 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 16 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, May 17 - 10 a.m. - 6 .pm.
Friday, May 22 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 23 - 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 24 - 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Monday, May 25- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Thursday, May 28-10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, May 29-10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 30 - 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 31- 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

We're celebrating the 2009 season opening of The Great Escape & Splashwater Kingdom by giving all nonprofit organizations an opportunity to raise thousands of dollars.

Here's how it works:

We have been selected as one of several groups participating in the sale of admission tickets to the fundraiser Spring Spin: One Good Turn To Benefit Another™. **Tickets to Spring Spin are just \$19.99 and you get 12 days to choose from!**

*Each ticket we sell earns \$5 for our organization.
The more tickets we sell, the more money we raise.*

Everyone who attends receives:

- **A full day of unlimited rides, spectacular shows and incredible attractions – there's something for the whole family**
- **A special "C'mon Back!" ticket to revisit the park any day during the 2009 season for just \$13, plus tax**
- **Opportunity to upgrade to a season pass for only an additional \$39.99, plus tax!**

ORDER YOUR TICKETS FROM US TODAY

To order tickets, complete and mail with a check or money order to:

Friends of Dyken Pond, 475 Dyken Pond Road, Cropseyville, NY 12052

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of tickets ordered

at \$19.99 each

Amount enclosed \$

Please make check payable to: Friends of Dyken Pond

Please call (518) 658-2055 for more information.

Please allow one week for your tickets to be mailed to you. Thank you!

EARTH DAY

April 22, 2009

Show you care and be green!

Celebrate Earth Day with T-SHIRTS

100% Cotton short sleeve T-shirt

Color: Serene Green

Sizes: Adult S, M, L, XL, 2X

Pre-order by 3/19/09

Friends of the Dyken Pond Center
Fundraiser to benefit the Otter Cove
land fund

Front left chest design
Will also say: Dyken Pond
Environmental Education Center



Back design



Call 658-2055
With questions

Orders must be received by
March 19th

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Shirt Size & Quantity: _____

Price is \$15 if picked up at the Center—We will call you after 4/6/09

Price is \$20 if we mail to you (shipping included in price)

Mail order form & check payable to: Friends of the Dyken Pond Center
475 Dyken Pond Rd., Cropseyville, NY 12052

Friends of the Dyken Pond Center, Ltd.

475 Dyken Pond Rd.

Cropseyville, NY 12052

E-mail: dykenpond@fairpoint.net

We're on the web!

www.dykenpond.org

Please share your email address!

To save on printing and postage costs please send Barb Treiber your email address so she can update your membership information.

btreiber@nycap.rr.com

This newsletter is being sent by email & mail as a trial. We can save money by having your email address!

Up Coming Events

February

27th Last day to order bird seed: See page 3

March

7th Birdseed pick-up at Capital Agway in Brunswick 9 am—12 pm

7th Snowshoeing Trek: Guided walk at the Center. 2 pm—4 pm Rentals available.

20th Order Earth Day T-Shirts: Pre-order your frog shirt

May

31st Tom Wessels returns: Save the date for the return of author Tom Wessels who will lead participants on a hike on Center trails and teach us how to read the forest.



Past issues of our newsletter can be found on our web site at:
www.dykenpond.org

Thank you to Marshall & Sterling Insurance for printing this newsletter.
For insurance quotes call 384-1100