

# River Talk

Newsletter of the Carantouan Greenway



Fall 2022



## President's Message

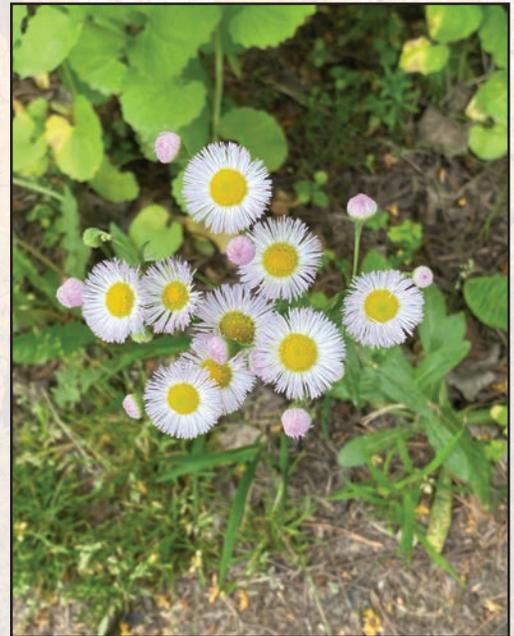
I hope you have taken advantage of the great fall weather to enjoy a hike on our trails.

Thanks to Sue Williams, who sourced and painted new trail signs and designed a new color-coded map for our website, navigating our trails at Wildwood Nature Reserve is a cinch. Thanks to Marty Borko who kept the trails nicely mowed, using our new riding mower and travel trailer purchased with a grant from the Floyd Hooker Foundation.

It has been an active year; Marty led several interesting hikes to investigate flora and fauna along the Wildwood trails, Dakota Relyea and Sue held a fishing derby for kids, Paul Barber

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## Wildwood Wildflowers



The multi-headed daisy fleabane has an outer ring of over 100 strap-shaped florets surrounding a core of tubular florets. The rays of the fleabane are whitish to pinkish and are common spring flowers.

## Youth Fishing Derby



*Brother and sister team, Serenity and Silas, display one of his catches of the day.*

On Saturday, June 25, Carantouan Greenway held a fishing derby for children ages five to 11. The derby was held in conjunction with New York State DEC's Free Fishing Day allowing anyone to partake of two days of fishing without purchasing a fishing license. Youngsters reeled in perch, blue gill, bass, and sunfish while getting a firsthand look at turtles interested in the worm bait. Participants registered for randomly drawn prizes.



*Shown is winner Harper receiving a cash prize from Carantouan Greenway president, John Palmer*

# The Importance of Maintaining the Greenway



At the beginning of October Carantouan Greenway board members along with volunteers removed over 100 invasive barberry shrubs as well as over a dozen young Tree-of-Heaven. As the volunteers approached the pine woods to begin clearing the plants, we could hear the sound of Paul Barber's excavator crossing the alfalfa field. The excavator was used to deepen the outlet pool so that this fall's foliage would not block the outlet pipe at the Wildwood Reserve Pond in the town of Barton. Volunteers are pictured ripping out the barberry. The removal of the Tree-of-Heaven will hopefully slow the northward movement of the spotted lanternfly as it is the preferred food source for this invasive species. Removal of the barberry will hopefully lessen the deer tick population. The dense

thicket of barberry creates a favorable habitat for ticks. It also is a great cover for white-footed mice, the main vector carrying Lyme disease. This close proximity of the two species provides greater opportunity for ticks and mice to come into contact with each other, thus perpetuating the ticks' life cycle. By removing barberry plants it is the mission of the Greenway to lessen the chance of transmitting Lyme disease to our visitors. The maintained Wildwood Reserve trails are open to the public from dawn to dusk all year long.

## President's Message (con'd from page 1)

excavated the outlet area behind the dam to improve outflow, Dakota has been trapping beavers that have been obstructing the causeway and working to rid the pine woods of invasive Tree of Heaven, and a work bee dug out invasive barberry all around the pine woods.

Progress is being made to develop a detailed plan for a Waverly Waterfront Access Park along the Chemung River, working with a Cornell University student organization called Design Connect.

A final thanks to all our members and friends who contribute to making Carantouan Greenway a success year after year! November 29, "Giving Tuesday", is a great time to renew your membership or make a tax-deductible donation to help insure that our properties are protected and well maintained for the enjoyment of all species in the years to come.

Sincerely, John Palmer

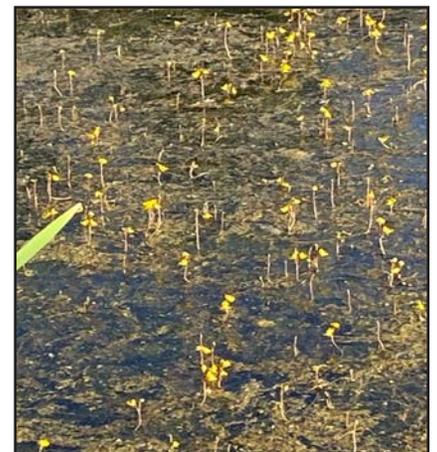
## Utricularia, carnivorous plant



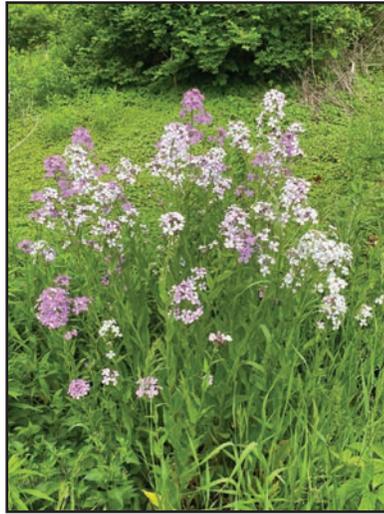
Utricularia (commonly known as bladderwort) exhibits its emergent flowering stalks of one to three irregular spurred flowers. The photosynthetic part of the plant is submerged along with its insect traps. Its generic name Utricularia is composed of two parts – Utric meaning sac (trap) and aria meaning having. When unsuspecting insects bump into the underwater sacs they open up to consume their prey. This allows the plant to secure nitrogen for its health.



*Cattails framing the water's surface covered in immense growth of Utricularia.*



## Nature Notes from Wildwood



The **dames' rocket** is an exotic that often dominates our spring roadsides. Its four parted floral parts come in white, pink and purple and attract early pollinators. It is a mustard so it exhibits four sepals, four petals and six stamens of two different lengths. They are often confused with phlox, which have five petals and bloom later in the summer, and is a native plant.



May and June are the prime months for the migration and egg laying endeavors of our **native turtles**. Wildwood's common turtles are the snapping and painted turtles. They look for soft soil to dig and lay their eggs. With the back field plowed in late May the snappers were seen burying their eggs. The painted dig a narrow opening and expand the hole below, drop their wet rubbery eggs into the hole and then cover up the scene.



**Galls.** Directly below the central flowering head of Queen Anne's Lace is the tight cluster of leaves and stems on Canada goldenrod. This gall is produced by tiny flies. Directly below it is the goldenrod gall ball, which is produced by an egg laid in the stem of usually a Canada goldenrod. Its maggot will grow all late summer, fall and winter and in the spring it will emerge from its protected home, providing that a downy woodpecker did not exploit this protein meal.

## Cuckoos



Photo ©Lois Martin

The Wildwood Reserve has been visited by two cuckoos; the yellow-billed and the black-billed. In the last two years there has been an increase in the gypsy moth, a blue and red spotted hairy caterpillar that favors the oaks but feeds on the foliage of many trees.

The cuckoos are one of the few bird species that do not seem to be offended by the caterpillar's hairs. The yellow-billed cuckoos are ID'ed by their yellow bill, long spotted tail and a rusty patch in the wing. Cuckoos are more often heard than seen and we thank Lois for taking this photo in the Wildwood parking lot.

## New Trail Created



As mentioned in John's message, this summer the Greenway was able to add a new trail. It is a short, flat trail that starts just steps away from the parking lot and leads to the vernal pools.

## Friends of the Carantouan Greenway

**Yes! Count me in! I believe in protecting farm and forestland, wildlife habitat and watersheds in the Penn-York Valley. I want to become a member of Carantouan Greenway!**

- Mighty Oak ..... \$500/year       Trailblazer ..... \$25/year  
 Golden Eagle..... \$75/year       Other ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stargazer ..... \$50/year       **Renewing member**     **New member**
- I would like to receive the newsletter via email. Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 I prefer to receive the newsletter in the mail.  
 I prefer not to receive the newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Town, State, and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Gifts to Carantouan Greenway are fully tax deductible! (Tax ID Number 23-2750872)

Please send all contributions to Carantouan Greenway, P.O. Box 441, Sayre, PA 18840-0441  
or P.O. Box 827, Waverly, NY 14892-0827 or on-line at [carantouangreenway.org/joinonline](http://carantouangreenway.org/joinonline)



## Carantouan Greenway

P.O. Box 441

Sayre, PA 18840-0441

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**Giving Tuesday**  
is Nov. 29

**Thank you** to our generous  
renewing members and other  
donors for helping us to preserve  
the Greenway's trails and  
properties, a nature gem for our  
community.