



# Friends Of The Kayaderosseras

## WINTER 2021-22 NEWSLETTER

The old adding machine shown to the right was discovered during a clean-up event this year at our own Axe Factory Preserve. To the extent that this newsletter can be understood to come “*from the desk of Friends of the Kayaderosseras*”, we can imagine it was typed from a writing space in the woods, alongside the creek.

Below, we revisit some of the recent events, accomplishments, and new pieces for our group, and offer a brief preview for the upcoming annual meeting in March. The quick summary is that we’re in a position to feel proud as well as challenged. Thanks to all those that shared their time, effort, and attention, as well as the financial donations from >90 individuals, families, and groups!



### ***On Inclusion***

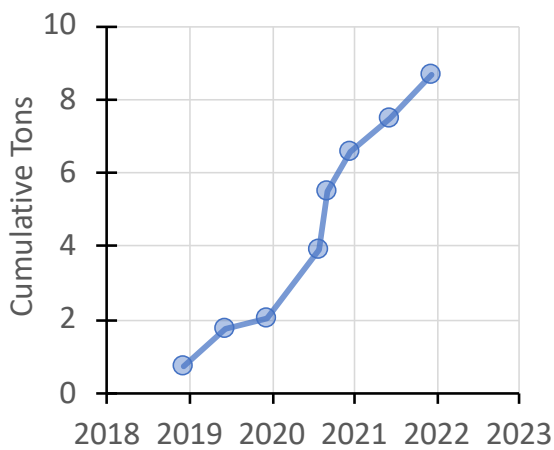
A friend and participant in our organization asked whether we had a statement of goals regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. We appreciated the inquiry and, after some good discussions, the board drafted the articulation of goals below. Our hope (goal) is that it effectively describes who we are and who we intend to be!

*Friends of the Kayaderosseras was established to protect the Kayaderosseras creek and its watershed for purposes of conservation, education, and recreation. Our mission is to promote awareness, appreciation and action to protect the creek, its tributaries and its watershed both as a habitat for wildlife and as an inspiring resource for residents and visitors in surrounding communities. This awareness should include cultivating an appreciation of the history of the creek as experienced by diverse peoples (including, for example, the indigenous peoples whose given name the creek continues to bear, the laborers in the mill-powered Civil War-era industrial complexes along the creek, and the legal plaintiffs seeking relief from upstream pollutants), how the creeks, wildlife and associated landscapes have changed over time, and how actions in the present-day incarnations of surrounding communities (neighbors, villages, towns, and the capital region) determine the near-future of this marvelous resource. Stakeholders - past, present and future - may approach the creek with perspectives informed by their economic circumstances, cultural traditions, ethnicity, gender, physical capabilities, and philosophies. The desired outcomes from Friends of the Kayaderosseras should include a variety of individuals actualizing a sense of responsibility and purpose as it relates to the creek. Our goal is that anyone should be able to discover both the unfamiliar and elements of themselves in this natural setting, that everyone feels both motivated and empowered to take responsibility for it, and that we collaborate to help one another navigate any obstacles to that participation.*

## Stewardship & Clean-Ups.



Maybe when we're together at the annual meeting in March, we can play a round of *Caption this photo!*



The cumulative weight, in tons, collected by Friends of the Kayaderosseras volunteers since fall 2018. Note that a lot was collected before then; we're only now in the position to keep track of it by weight. The good news / bad news is that the current total is 8.6 tons!

For the purposes of clean-ups in the last four years, Friends of the Kayaderosseras oversees 24 sites twice a year and usually spends additional time at Axe Factory (our flagship property!). In 2018, we established a partnership with County Waste where they donate the trucking and rental cost of a dumpster and charge us for the tonnage that is weighed post clean-up. The measurement of our rented dumpster inadvertently became a useful tracking system and now is a part of our annual review statistics (see figure to the right). Since then, we have recorded an average of 2.18 tons per year. The materials collected includes bottles and cans, miscellaneous small trash, as well as larger more substantial items that require truck hauls back to our event base site at Kelley Park. We also average roughly about 6 to 7 tires per event, not included in the tonnage measurement, which are dropped at a local tire maintenance facility that charges 5 dollars per tire. As a result, the 2.18 tons per year is conservative - we pull more than this out of the creek annually!

Two thoughts come to mind here. First, thank you to all those involved, including County Waste. Talk about a difference you can see!

Second, this tracking helps us grasp the amount of creek- and road-side trash that borders the Kayaderosseras each year. That helps us evaluate how we can plan our future clean-ups and handle this seemingly continuous flow of waste. However, the real dilemma for Friends of the Kayaderosseras is ***How can we make clean-ups obsolete or, at the very least, less necessary?*** Advocacy and education are long term strategies that can be effective but require thoughtful sustained planning and implementation to a broad audience. No small thing! As we progress

into 2022, we'll look to our members, partners, and neighbors along the creek for ideas and methods that may prove beneficial and/or noteworthy for consideration.

Also speaking of the big picture throughout the watershed, a big thank you to the 2021-22 Park Stewards, including Rich Bashant, Loren Grimm, Dave Guarino, Margaret Kinosian, Ron Leveille, Blue Neils, and Mike Tower.



## Access & Axe Factory



Axe Factory Preserve is our “flagship site”, by virtue of its location, history, size (~41 acres), stream length (1.3 miles of the Kayaderosseras or, if you like, 2.6 miles of stream bank), and the fact that it’s the only location we own rather than merely support. This year brought lots of initiatives to facilitate access, including directed parking and stormwater diversion from Axe Factory Rd and a new creek-side trail (~0.6 miles).

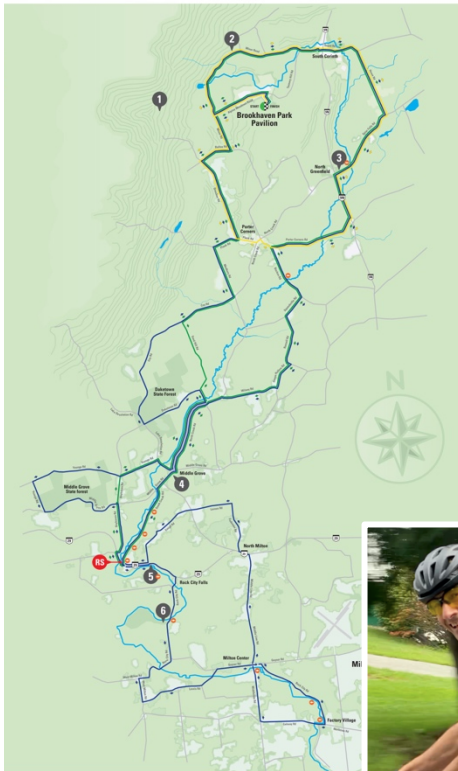


Eagle Scout candidate Trevor Duthaler and associated work crew snuck in one last big contribution for 2021 by building a bridge across a small stream on the hiking trail at the Axe Factory Preserve in early December. The Kayaderosseras has several small creeks that flow into it within the preserve. The new bridge makes for easier going along the trail as well as a healthier stream (muddy boots are appreciated by neither walker nor creek), and also facilitates wheelbarrows to move materials in and out of the Preserve. Thanks to Trevor and others for making this new bridge possible!

The common theme here is facilitating and directing access in a fashion that simultaneously gets folks into the stream and nature, even as it protects the surroundings environments.



## Outreach & Education



Another successful *Pedal the Creek* event! The idea for *Pedal the Creek* is to create a fun outdoor activity where folks gain and share a broader sense of the larger Kayaderosseras watershed. We want folks to see the creek in all its varied forms, not just the version they are familiar with! We do this by structuring 15-, 30- and 50- mile bike courses that all start – nearly simultaneously – at the Brookhaven Family Pavilion (circuits shown at left), thereafter moving through headwaters of Kayaderosseras and periodically intersecting with the creek as well

as historical sites (e.g., Ballston Terminal Railroad and historical industrial sites and mills that utilized the erosional grading, movement and hydro-power provided by the creek). All three rides also

end at the pavilion, to music, food and tired-but-happy company. This was the third *Pedal the Creek* and had the greatest number of riders to date; we're officially an epic Trilogy.

### A new kiosk for Kelley Park!

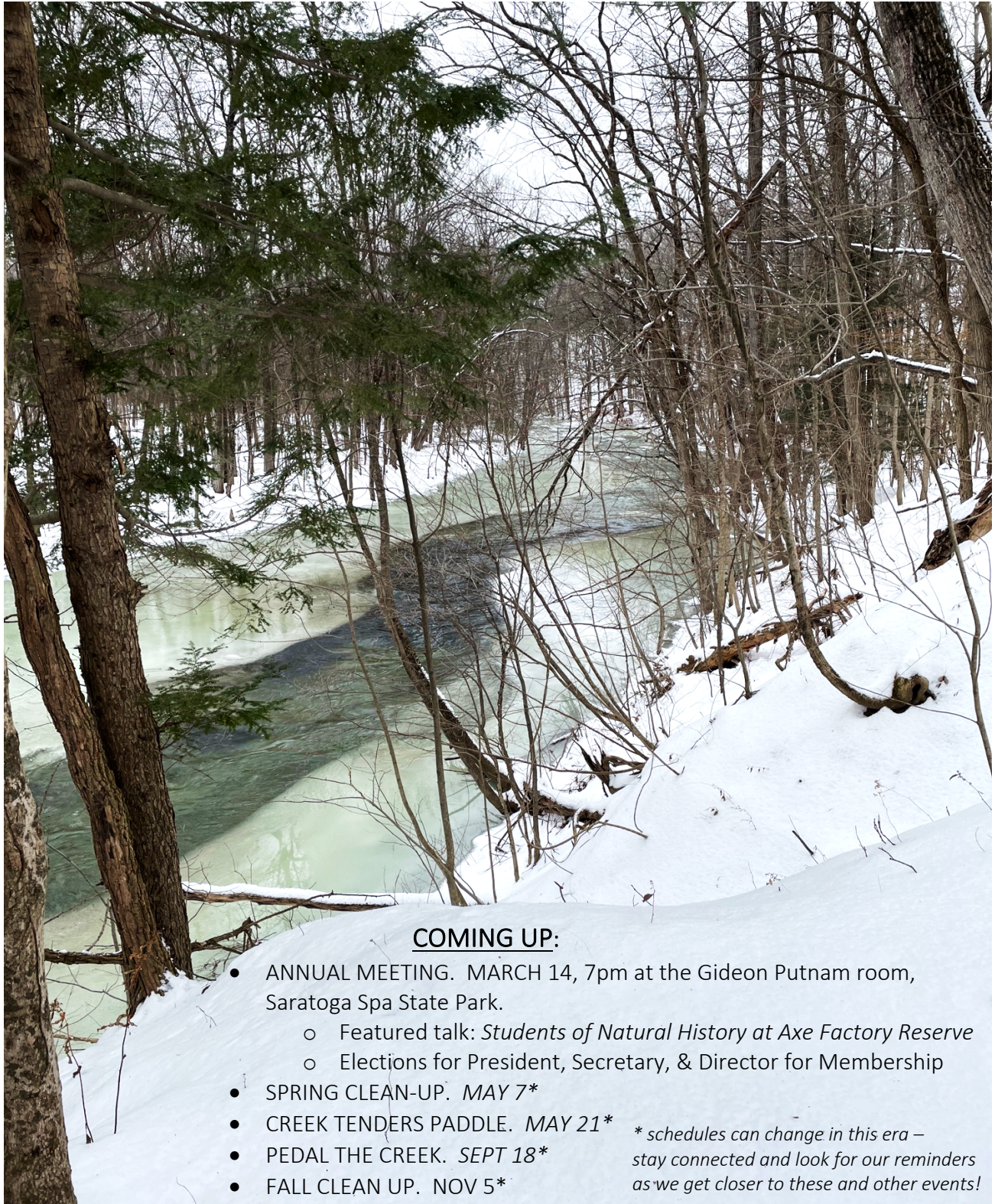
Friends of the Kayaderosseras collaborated with Eagle Scout candidate Sean Hughes to renovate the kiosk at Kelley Park in the Village of Ballston Spa. Kelley Park is used by anglers, kayakers, and families that waded in the stream while visiting the Kids' Creekside Village Playground, and it's also



a location we often use to add trout to the creek and stage our bi-annual creek-clean ups. For many folks, this location is the incarnation of the Kayaderosseras they are most familiar with. The renovated kiosk will be good spot for reminders and announcements regarding the creek, Kelley Park and/or the village. Our intent is to create and install illustrative maps that help orient folks about locations both upstream and downstream from Kelley Park, the idea being that this will help develop the public understanding of the watershed.

**Research Projects** focused on wildlife communities and in-stream decomposition of riparian tree species were performed by Skidmore College Biology students at Axe Factory in fall 2021.





### COMING UP:

- ANNUAL MEETING. MARCH 14, 7pm at the Gideon Putnam room, Saratoga Spa State Park.
  - Featured talk: *Students of Natural History at Axe Factory Reserve*
  - Elections for President, Secretary, & Director for Membership
- SPRING CLEAN-UP. MAY 7\*
- CREEK TENDERS PADDLE. MAY 21\*      \* schedules can change in this era – stay connected and look for our reminders as we get closer to these and other events!
- PEDAL THE CREEK. SEPT 18\*
- FALL CLEAN UP. NOV 5\*

STAY CONNECTED! Join the meetings, volunteer, share, and learn via [kayadeross.org](http://kayadeross.org) ,  
twitter: @Kayaderosseras , Instagram: @friendsofthekaydeross and our social page:  
[www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheKayaderosseras/](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheKayaderosseras/)