

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Kayaderosseras

PO Box 223,
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

10 Things We Can Do To Protect Our Waters



Although lately the weather doesn't fit with our typical Summer right now, it soon will. And so a good time, I thought, to talk about Storm water and Pollution Prevention. The snows and ice of Winter have melted and unfrozen precipitation is falling from the sky at, lately, a fast and sometimes furious pace! According to the National Weather Service in Albany, so far this year we have a nearly 9-inch *surplus!* With that rainfall comes runoff. In terms of our local water resources and, indeed, the whole of the U.S., polluted storm water runoff is a singular, ubiquitous, and powerful impact to water quality. It is singular in that its sources are everywhere and everyone. It is not any special sector, industry, or group but all of us...it is a very common denominator. It is ubiquitous because it is most-prevalent wherever we are, also, most-prevalent. It is powerful because it is the Number One impairment to our Fresh Water and Tidal resources; accounting for 45% of pollutants found in freshwater bodies and estuaries, nationally. Saratoga County and our waters, regrettably, are no different. But there is hope. Because we are the sources of the problem we can also be the solution (No! Dilution is *not* the solution.). Here are 10 things that anyone can do that will reduce storm-water pollution:

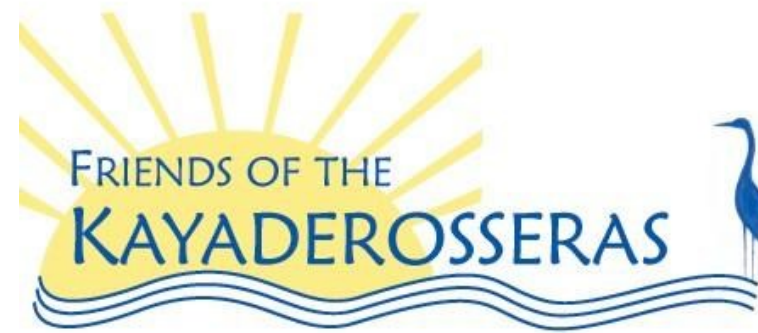
WANT TO WIN SOMETHING???

POST CREEK PICTURES TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO BE ENTERED TO WIN A FRIENDS OF THE KAYADEROSSERAS T-SHIRT

TOP 10 BMPs (Best Management Practices):

1. Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Get your soil/s tested first;
2. Plant alternatives to turf grass, and, make sure they are native species;
3. Disconnect your downspouts from impervious cover – aim them at green space/s or install a Rain Barrel;
4. Properly collect and dispose of pet waste;
5. Be a Stormwater Detective –look for signs of flooding, pollution, or erosion in streams or from construction sites and report it;
6. Plant a shoreline or stream buffer, if you have such property–again, use native species;
7. Mow your lawn high (3" or greater) and compost yard debris;
8. Wash your car on your lawn or at a carwash, not in your driveway;
9. Get Involved!! There are 19 individual local governments and communities that would welcome your help in preventing Stormwater Pollution;
10. If you see what you think might be a problem, report it to your local Stormwater Management Officer, or...

To learn more about these BMPs, Stormwater Pollution Prevention or where to get help locally, contact the Saratoga County/Cornell Cooperative Extension Intermunicipal Stormwater Management Program (ISWM): Blue R Neils, Coordinator; brn5@cornell.edu (518) 885-8995 x224 50 West High Street; Ballston Spa, NY. You can also learn more by visiting us on the web at: www.saratogastormwater.org



Our Mission:
To promote awareness and appreciation of the Kayaderosseras Creek and to inspire action to conserve and protect the creek and its watershed as both a natural and

www.Kayaderos.org
Info@kayaderos.org

Check in with "FOK" on Facebook
PO Box 223, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Conserving the Creek

Spring - Summer 2017

-----Events Calendar-----

Meet the Creek: (Check FB and Website for updates)

JUNE 19: Mogie – Guided Walk, Gray's Crossing, "Stream Geology"

JUNE 26: Dave – Intro to Paddling, Kelley Park to Gray's Crossing

JULY 3: DIY Holiday Weekend?

JULY 24: Mogie – Gnome House building workshop, Kelley Park

AUGUST 7: DIY and post about it on Instagram or Facebook

AUGUST 28: Rich – Family Hike, Campfire and Smores, Boice Park

Additional Dates to be added

Meet The Creek Takes A New Path

The annual Meet the Creek event is evolving for 2017. The event has been held at Kelly Park in Ballston Spa for several summers and was a an event that catered primarily to kids. There were different exhibits FOK setup to explain life around the creek and how our actions affect the creek and water shed. How run off from homes and roads can introduce Fertilizers and other chemicals and silt into the creek. The kids could also catch Crayfish, fish for plastic Trout and learn about Reptiles and other creatures from Dee Strnisa the The Reptile Rescue woman.

While a great event, the FOK Board of Directors felt we needed to expand MTC to involve a larger segment of our community. Starting June 19th we will be running **Meet The Creek Events** Monday evenings at different locations to Meet the Creek in person. We want the community to learn about projects FOK has been working on, go on nature walks, kayaking trips, stream geology, clean up or improve the creek or trails and other events that revolve around the outdoors and the creek. The events may change based on weather and other conditions so you should check the website www.kayaderos.org and the Friends of the Kayaderosseras Facebook page for updates and up to date schedules. We are also looking for members that may have special expertise like Kayaking, Hiking, Photography, Fly Fishing, Identifying plants or animal tracks and other outdoor skills for adults and families. Our 1st event is scheduled for JUNE 19: Guided Walk, Gray's Crossing, "Stream Geology" the next event is June 26th an intro Paddle from Kelly Park to Greys Crossing. experienced paddlers can continue to Driscoll Road. Most events are scheduled from 6 pm to 7 pm, but check the website for updates. We look forward to offering more opportunities for the community and families to experience the Jewel of Saratoga County, the Kayaderosseras Creek.



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#FOK



Gray's Crossing

In the fall of 2004 New York State announced the purchase of an additional 345 acres of land along the Kayaderosseras Creek. News releases at the time stated that the acquisition brought the total acres in the historic park to 2545 and that these new lands would increase access for paddle sports and fishing and would improve wetland protection. The Friends of the Kayaderosseras were immediately involved in developing this new access point, Gray's Crossing. In cooperation with the State Park, Fok volunteers began the planning and designing of a walking trail and a canoe/kayak landing. On a rainy Saturday in the Spring of 2005 over 30 volunteers came together to clear brush, remove trash, haul wood chips and build the 3/4 mile trail. Known today as the Burl Trail, just beyond the Kiosk and picnic area, you can look up into one of the larger cottonwood trees on the bank of the Creek and see the large "burl"—growth in which the grain has grown in a deformed manner commonly in the form of a rounded outgrowth on a tree trunk or branch—for which the trail is named.

Although Gray's Crossing is bordered by Northline Road (Gray's Crossing) and Malta Avenue, visitors can still get a sense of being in a wild outdoor space. Any time you are at Gray's Crossing if you look close enough you will see beaver cut trees and deer bedding areas; and sometimes if you are lucky (and quiet) you may even get a chance to see one of these large mammals yourself. The trail takes hikers through a variety of habitats along the creek bank, and through wooded areas, wetlands, and open meadows. This site is a popular destination because it includes places well suited for bird watching, splashing in the creek, fishing and as a landing for the start or finish of a canoe or kayak trip. Gray's Crossing is located on the south side of Northline Road between Route 50 and Old Post Road.

Annual Cleanup

April 15th FOK Members ventured out to cleanup Creekside locations and other areas in the Kayaderosseras Watershed. Once again we were pleased to find less trash than previous years but still too much. There was significant trash along Grays crossing and other roadways. The trash was disposed of properly and the workers were treated to a nice lunch back at Kelly Park.



Spring Cleanups

April 22nd 6 FOK Members set out from Gray's Crossing and paddled to Driscoll Road removing trash from the creek and looking for obstructions in the creek. [Andy Sheridan, Dave Stern Mogie and Hank Kinosian, Chris _____ and _____]

The Creek was running nicely and there was actually less trash than we have seen on other trips and there were no obstructions that needed more than minor clearing. There is one larger blockage (that is passable) that accumulated debris that we will access from shore with permission from a home owner on Old Post Road. Keep



an eye on Facebook and the webpage for updates on projects you can assist with and if you have a project that you are interested in running please touch base with the FOK Board of Directors and we will see about getting the word out and getting other FOK Members involved.



2017 Spring Trout Stocking

The Friends of the Kayaderosseras had another great fish stocking event again at Kelly Park April 15th with a fantastic turn out from local families and some from surrounding communities that heard about the event. We don't over publicize the event so we can primarily keep it for FOK Members. (Another benefit of becoming a member of FOK) The kids came with buckets and smiles to take the fish down to the creek and release them into their new home. The free event is a bonding experience for kids and parents and we hope it instills a lasting appreciation of the creek and the desire to preserve nature. Several kids explored the creek deeper than their boots would allow to keep them dry, but at that age the cold water is eclipsed by the wonders of the creek and splashing around.

One of the many activities on the creek includes fishing and the stocking by DEC and by FOK helps the fish

population for anglers. The DEC primarily puts in fingerlings when they stock before fishing season, Brown and Brook trout with some larger fish. The trout stocked by FOK were substantially larger and included Rainbow Trout in the 10 to 14-inch range. This is a treat for anglers itching to shake off winter and start the spring fishing season.

NYS Fishing licenses are required for fresh water fishing in the creek, lakes and rivers for all over the age of 16. Be sure to follow the rules of when seasons begin and end for species and respect the limit on caught fish or practice catch and release if you will not be eating your catch.

A special thanks to Avery's Trout Hatchery for again delivering the fish for the stocking and for the symbolic naming of each fish before the kids set them free.

