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You Gotta Have Friends

a newsletter for friends of the NYS Park System



MAKE A DONATION | FALL 2014 | BECOME A MEMBER

Dear Friend:

In just a few years, New York's State Parks and Historic Sites have gone from near closure to an exciting renaissance. From major infrastructure improvements and technological advancements to new partnerships and huge volunteer events, the future looks bright for New York's iconic parks system.

Even as this revival is underway, however, potential developments threaten to alter the landscapes millions of New Yorkers and visitors have come to enjoy. It's an important reminder to never take the protection of state parks, the resources they contain, and the recreational opportunities they afford for granted.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'L'.

Laura DiBetta
Director, Parks Program & Government Relations



Gambling with State Parks' Future

Three of the six proposed sites for new casinos in the Catskills and Hudson Valley could impact the scenic vistas enjoyed by millions of visitors to New York's parks and trails, as well as the natural resources protected by adjacent state parks. While casino operators duke it out for the winning bids, outdoor

enthusiasts could end up the real losers.



I Love My Park Day Project Builds Bridges

Park staff and volunteers have long dreamed of making the Peerless Loop Trail in Saratoga Spa State Park more handicapped accessible. Thanks to a grant from GE and the work of volunteers on I Love My Park Day and beyond, that dream will become a reality this fall.



Ever Dreamed of Living in a State Park?

A new program at State Parks now gives you that chance, and has the potential to save some important and historic buildings. The Resident Curator Program will launch with three residential buildings in state parks on Long Island.



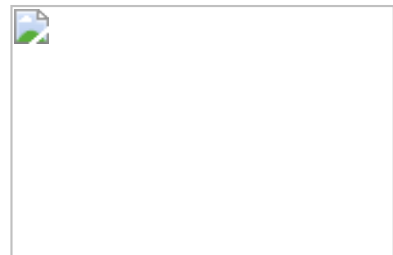
Going Up?

The ribbon has been cut on a new 21-story high-speed elevator linking Poughkeepsie's waterfront to the popular Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park.



Friends of Philipse Manor Hall Enhance Visibility with PTNY Support

As one of the first groups selected for PTNY's Friends' Technical Assistance Program (TAP), the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall have been working with PTNY staff on board development and engagement, as well as communications. The results have been fruitful; the Friends have had a busy year and people are taking notice.



Planning for the Future

State Parks continues to advance its master planning process. The public has a chance to weigh in on plans for state parks in the Thousand Islands and Finger Lakes this summer and fall.



Friends of Letchworth Exceed Goal

When the new nature center opens at Letchworth State Park, it will feature a Butterfly and Biosphere Garden thanks to the fundraising efforts of the all-volunteer Friends of Letchworth State Park.



Free WiFi at Flagships

Don't want to have to wait until you get home to share that great selfie? Now you won't have to while visiting four of the state's flagship parks thanks to the addition of free Wi-Fi.



New Friends Group Forms in Palisades

Schunnemunk Mountain State Park in Orange County is going to get some extra TLC thanks to a newly formed Friends group. The volunteers have big plans for the park and region.



You Gotta Have Tips: Crowdfunding

As nonprofits must increasingly compete for donors and visibility, the tools they are using to raise funds and increase member engagement are also expanding. Enter crowdfunding.



Featured Friend: Volunteer Profile

Nature education is at the core of the Council of Park Friends in central New York. It's also what first drew long-time volunteer Diane Kuehn to the Friends and Clark Reservation State Park as an undergraduate student at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.



Short Takes

Congrats to the [Friends of Fahnestock](#) which was recently named a "[Hudson Valley Hero](#)."

[The Friends of John Jay Homestead](#) has a [new executive director](#) at the helm.

[Volunteers blazed a new trail](#) at [Moreau Lake State Park](#).

Reports/Resources

[Captain Planet grants](#) - apply by Sept. 30

PTNY's Online [Friends Resource Kit](#)

Dates

September 13: [Thacher Park's Centennial Celebration](#)

September 27: [National Public Lands Day](#)

Save the date! May 2, 2015 is [I Love My Park Day](#)



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