



Rockwood Ramble 10K: A Gorgeous Sylvan Romp

By Stella Medina,
Friends Vice President

It gives me great pleasure to announce The Rockwood Ramble 10k will take place on Saturday, June 7th at 9am in the Preserve. This 6.2 mile race begins and ends at Rockwood Hall with spectacular views of the Hudson. Since 2011, under the leadership of Race Director Laureen Fitzgerald, the course has won accolades for its challenging course and beautiful scenery. Attendance continues to grow year after year, drawing both local and NYC metro area runners.

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New Bench a Tribute To Long- time Travelers Of Preserve Trails

By Herbert Hadad

Enjoy the preserve and its myriad charms, and if you want to catch your breath or merely pause to absorb the view, come and sit for a spell on the new bench atop the Overlook Trail facing Swan Lake.

The bench has an inscription that reads: "In Loving Memory of Pao H. & Ping S. Yen Chin."

This writer and his family had the privilege of knowing Mr. and Mrs. Chin for the decades we lived side by side in Pocantico Hills. Mrs. Chin passed away about 10 years ago, Mr. Chin last year at age 94.

My wife Evelyn and I were in his hospital room shortly before he was gone, accompanied by his second wife, Loretta Chin. We kissed him on the forehead. He smiled. It was our last communication.

It was Loretta Chin who had the idea to remember her husband and

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Oak tree damages bridge

From the Friends President

By Clare M. Pierson

My letter is largely about cause and effect. The cause: a gala benefit dinner sponsored by the Friends. The effect: funds to restore and improve portions of our beautiful trails.

As endless winter has waned, and we look forward to being out on the carriage roads more often, I write with good news, and bad news.

In the **good news** column, our fundraising efforts last year were very successful, especially the gala benefit dinner held on Saturday, December 7, 2013. (Pictures on page 2 and page 3.) We look forward to putting some of the funds we raised

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A Night To Remember: Former NYS Parks Commissioner Castro Honored With Gala at the Historic Rockefeller Playhouse

Bernadette Castro, who served with uncommon distinction as the Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for New York State, was honored in December with a Carriage Roads Gala at The Playhouse on the Rockefeller Estate in Pocantico Hills.

More than 200 guests, including special honored guest George E. Pataki, who as New York Governor appointed Ms. Castro in 1993 to a post she would hold for 12 years, were present at the black-tie event.

The special honored chairpersons of the event were David Rockefeller, Ann Rockefeller Roberts and Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky.

Mr. Rockefeller, the patriarch of the Rockefeller family, said: "For over 80 years I have enjoyed the carriage roads built by my father in the early 20th century. I have taken many walks, ridden horseback, and driven my carriage through all four seasons of the year. I couldn't be more pleased to know that they will be preserved."

Ms. Castro, famous as a child for opening the Castro Convertible sofa with her fingertips in TV commercials, became known as a state official for charting new territory in public-private partnerships that have served the Rockefeller Preserve and other state parks so well.

George F. Gumina was the founding president in 1997 of the Friends of the Rockefeller Preserve and Chairman of the Carriage Roads Gala. His Gala committee consisted of Clare Pierson, the current President of the Friends, and Friends Board Members Carol M. Lyden, John Manuele and Kimberly Rockefeller.

Photos: Margaret Fox & Tim Grajek







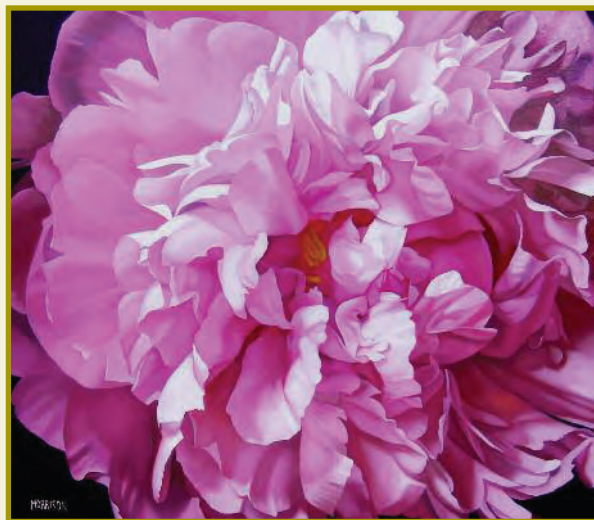
6th Annual Peony Celebration Is Set for Friday, May 16, 2014

By Herbert Hadad

On Friday, May 16, from 6 to 9 p.m., one of the highlight events of the preserve season will be hosted by the Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve. It is the Sixth Annual Peony Celebration – a fund-raising event that will celebrate the blooming at the entrance to the preserve of the famous Japanese tree peonies. There will be a cocktail and light cuisine reception, flower arrangements from local garden clubs and an exhibit of fine art by Yun-Mo Ahn and Margaret Morrison entitled “Butterflies and Blossoms”. The reception will take place in the Visitor Center Courtyard under what is hoped will be clear blue skies and warm weather.

This celebration is a much anticipated one by members of the surrounding communities. It commemorates receiving the gift of 500 peonies from the town of Yatsuka Cho in Shimane Prefecture, Japan, in memory of the victims of September 11th. It was meant to express a gesture of healing and solidarity towards the United States. The peony is the signature flower from this area and is considered Japan’s “most noble of flowers.”

The placing of Japanese flowers on American soil symbolizes the blending of two cultures and two peoples. Friends board member Evelyn Hadad, at the time the director of external affairs for the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New York, arranged for this generous gift, and the Friends organization then created a landscaping project around the gateway to the preserve. Another 500 peonies were donated to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. The remainder of the design called for American wildflowers and native trees. Yatsuka Cho graciously sent over Japanese gardeners to plant the flowers and to teach the preserve staff how to care for them. This work is continued to this day by dedicated volunteers led by Keith Austin, the former mayor of Briarcliff Manor and an avid gardener.



The peony in bloom.

Please come and enjoy your friends and the magnificent flowers! For information, please consult our web site, www.friendsrock.org. Ticket price begins at \$125.



Happy Spring!

*Be sure to visit the Preserve often to see what's blooming!
Stay updated on all of our events at www.friendsrock.org.*

President's Letter, *continued from page 1*

into the carriage road system as spring releases the roads to be worked on.

Look for improvements in the road surface on the Pocantico River Trail toward Gory Brook Trail as well as the traditional clean-up of 25 feet into the woodlands by the side of roads. All the drains will be shoveled out and inspected. This is essential work to maintain the carriage road as the spring rains come.

The other project we are doing with the state is repair of the wood and stone bridge near Witch's Spring Trail and Pocantico River Trail. An oak tree fell on the bridge recently, and broke the white oak railings on one side. These will be replaced and reinforced with brass rods and plates. (See picture on page 1.)

We are very excited about these projects.

On the **bad news** side, the state budget is getting closer to being passed but has not been so far. We were looking forward to working with the State on a Capital Improvement Project but the Senate took out the \$92,000,000, which was earmarked for much needed deferred maintenance in the New York State park system, but support from people like you restored the money. However, the budget has not yet been approved. Please join us in contacting your state senator to let them know you support capital improvements in your parks.

Our **Peony Reception** is coming up **Friday, May 16th**. If you have never attended this fun evening, please consider it. We have a wonderful spring cocktail, some champagne, delicious appetizers, a beautiful show of flower arrangements made by local garden clubs, and of course the gorgeous 500 tree peony garden all around us in bloom.

Our next event is the **June 7th Rockwood Ramble**, a competitive 10k trail run through the Rockwood Hall and some of the preserve. It is a carefully measured course with prizes, gifts bags, and of course beautifully designed T-shirts for all runners.

See you in the preserve!



Clare



Reaching the Friends

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The Preserve Observer

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Website: www.friendsrock.org
Editors: Evelyn Hadad, Herbert Hadad
Letters and submissions are invited.
Please contact us c/o the Friends.

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BIRDS AT THE ROCKEFELLER

Important Bird Area: Rockefeller State Park Preserve is one of a global network of sites selected for their value in conserving at-risk bird populations. The Important Bird Area (IBA) at Rockefeller was designated by the National Audubon Society, based on confirmed nesting of wood thrush and worm-eating warblers, two at-risk species which nest only in mature forest habitat. At-risk species frequently have specialized nesting and feeding requirements. For example, the Louisiana water thrush nests and feeds on the ground near fast-moving streams within deep forest, such as found along Gory Brook.



Ovenbird



Worm Eating Warbler



Scarlet Tanager



Wood Thrush

Birds

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Wood Thrush			May-4	May-7	May-1	May-2	May-4	Apr-28	Apr-30	May-3	Apr-30
Veery			Apr-29	May-3	May-6	May-3	May-5	Apr-20	May-7	May-1	May-4
Louisiana Waterthrush			Apr-16		Apr-28	Apr-19	May-5	Apr-11	Apr-6	Apr-13	Apr-10
Ovenbird	May-12	May-4	May-11	May-4	May-2	Apr-25	May-4	Apr-22	Apr-30	May-5	Apr-30
Worm Eating Warbler	May-12	May-19	May-6	May-10	May-11	May-4	May-4	May-1	May-7	May-5	Jun-8
Baltimore Oriole	May-7	May-4	May-4	May-2	May-3	May-2	May-5	Apr-29	May-5	May-2	May-1
Scarlet Tanager	May-12	May-7	May-13	May-8	May-2	May-8	May-6	May-9	May-4	May-2	May-11

Plants

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Trout Lily	Apr-17	Apr-21	Apr-16	Apr-10	Apr-27	Apr-13	Apr-15	Apr-17	Apr-20	Apr-19	Mar-31	Apr-18	Apr-14	Apr-19		Apr-19
Spring Beauty		Apr-30	Apr-15			Apr-20		Apr-26	Apr-23	Apr-19	Apr-1	Apr-18		Apr-19		

Frogs

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Spring Peeper	Feb-23	Mar-2	Mar-8	Mar-28	Mar-26			Mar-22	Mar-4	Mar-17	Mar-8	
Wood Frog	Mar-11	Mar-7	Mar-31		Mar-30			Mar-6	Feb-28	Apr-2	Mar-8	

ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE

Richard Nelson's Records: Richard Nelson, as Park Naturalist, has steadily kept records of bird sightings and natural phenomena in the Preserve since 1988, creating quite a remarkable dataset. This year we are working to make his records accessible to scientists and the public. Spring sightings, or the first day a bird arrives or a wildflower blooms, are of particular interest. This type of information can be compared by climate change scientists to the climatic changes they are modeling and documenting. We are in the midst of creating spring and fall sighting posters for the Preserve. Below is a sampling of Richard's records of spring dates for a few of our favorite plants and animals. As you may note, some species, such as the scarlet tanager, arrive very consistently around the same time each year, while others' arrivals can spread over 6-8 weeks, as demonstrated by the eastern phoebe.



Louisiana Waterthrush



Baltimore Oriole



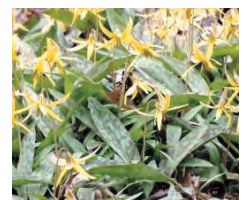
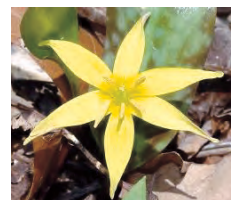
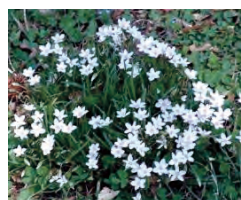
Veery

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Apr-28	May-3	May-1	Apr-27	Apr-30	May-1	May-5	May-1	n/a		May-7	May-5	Apr-27	May-5
May-3	May-8	May-7	May-1	May-3	May-7	May-3	May-7	n/a	May-21	May-8	May-12	May-11	May-13
May-8	Apr-14	Apr-11	Apr-15	Apr-14	Apr-12	Apr-7	May-6	n/a	Apr-7				
May-7	May-8	May-7	Apr-25	May-3	May-7	May-2	May-5	n/a	May-18	May-8	May-12	May-7	
May-8	May-8		May-6	May-12	Apr-30	May-9	May-8	n/a					
Apr-28	Apr-30	Apr-28	Apr-24	May-2	Apr-29	Apr-30	May-1	n/a		May-7	May-1	Apr-28	Apr-28
May-8	May-5	May-2	May-5	May-2	May-2	May-7	May-4	n/a		May-8	May-1	May-1	May-3

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Apr-19	Apr-16		Apr-23	Apr-16
Apr-17	Apr-18	Apr-17	Apr-23	

Spring Beauty

Trout Lily



2002	2003	2004	2005
Apr-14	Apr-16		Mar-30
Mar-27			Mar-3



Wood Frog



Spring Peeper

Rockwood Ramble, *continued from page 1*

The course winds its way through the Preserve and includes part of the Old Croton Aqueduct. Peggy’s Way, Big Tree Trail and Witches Spring Trails feature challenging hills. Having run the race myself last year, I can tell you that the water stations are perfectly positioned providing water when one most needs it. Course Marshals are strategically placed and knowledgeable. It was so heartening to hear Wayne Rubin, a volunteer, call out “Last big hill! Easy down hills after this” and he was right! Being a 1500m and mile runner, this 6.2 mile race was plenty for me and I was happy to finish 2nd in my age group. Along the route I got to chat with Ben Cheever from the Friends and Todd Ruppel from the Rivertown Runners, although by the last mile, none of us were chatting anymore!

This year the race is also the goal of “Moms in Training”. A division of Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training (LLS), the group includes new runners, many of them new moms, who are embarking on a fitness and well-

ness campaign while raising funds for LLS. Since many LLS runners run regularly in the Preserve, participating in the race is a natural fit. Headed by Diana Rukaj, we look forward to this group’s participation--an exciting race for them in a very special place.

Hosted by Westchester Track Club, and sponsored by the Central Park Track Club, the 10k features age group awards, refreshments, T-shirts, photos, and professional timing. All proceeds go to trail maintenance. Visit our race website rockysraces.org or our FaceBook page rockysraces for more information and registration links to active.com. Come join us!



“Pay & Display” stations are coming to the Preserve!

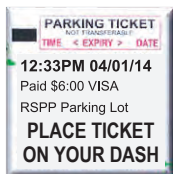
All parked vehicles will need to display one of the following:



A Current Empire Passport decal permanently affixed to one of the driver side windows.



New York State resident seniors age 62 or older & current NYS Access Pass holders can to obtain a Parking Permit from the Preserve office. The permit will need to be placed on your dashboard each time you visit.



A Pay Station receipt, purchased the same day of your visit, placed on your dashboard. See directions →

Please contact the Preserve office if you have any questions or other inquiries. (914) 631-1470 ext. 0



From the Preserve Manager

By Susan Antenen

The Preserve has been surprisingly busy all winter even during harsh temperatures and snowstorm after snowstorm. The snowshoers and skiers who ventured out witnessed delicate filigrees of bird prints upon the snow and deeper coyote and deer tracks crisscrossing the white landscape. Occasionally, the deer and coyote prints converged at the picked-over carcass of a deer.

When we weren't plowing and shoveling snow, the Preserve staff and I spent the winter preparing for spring. We're rolling out numerous visitor service upgrades, starting with our new, very handsome map. The new 11 x 17 color map includes the whole 45+ mile network of carriage roads, including those on David Rockefeller's property, which are open to the public. We thank the Friends of Rockefeller State Park Preserve and Kendall-on-Hudson for printing the map. We are also replacing damaged trail markers and adding new ones in confusing intersections with the assistance of Caroline Pennacchio and Girl Scout Troop 77150. For the first time, the 1-mile direct route from the Visitor Center to the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture will be marked.

And change is coming to the main parking lot at the Visitor Center. Soon visitors will pay for parking at two solar-powered "pay and display" stations and Fred Von Pichl and Tony Corda will be freed from the booth, giving them more time to orient visitors and offer hiking suggestions. The pay schedule won't change; if you purchase an Empire Pass you can avoid the pay station altogether. See article on page 8 for more information about the parking lot transition.

We are also re-energizing our volunteer program. In addition to staffing special events, such as Family Fishing Day and the Friends' Horse Pace and running races, volunteers are assisting with invasive control and land stewardship, "pop-up" information tables at busy intersections, bird monitoring, and trail patrols. To extend the summer hours of the restrooms in the parking lot, we're seeking hikers and runners who are willing to unlock the restroom doors early in the morning and lock the doors at sunset. If you regularly come early or stay late and are willing to help out, please stop by the Preserve Office.

Meanwhile, we're deep into stewardship planning for the Preserve, emphasizing care of the carriage roads and historic features and active management to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity and native flora and fauna of the



Preserve's lands and waters. In April, May and June, we're making a big push to give the carriage roads TLC. The Friends are helping us resurface rough stretches of the carriage roads and remove multiflora rose and bittersweet vines constricting certain bends. By the next newsletter, I'll have much to report on ecological stewardship goals and opportunities.

Before long, the haunting twilight songs of the wood thrush and veery will echo off the rocks along Gory Brook and

the forest and fields will be so green and lush we won't be able to imagine the snowy Winter of 2014. We expect our peonies and wildflowers to be particularly floriferous this spring, after being protected by snow all winter. Come and enjoy. We'll be ready for you.

Rockefeller State Park Preserve Staff

Susan Antenen, Preserve Manager

Laurence Gill, Preserve Office Manager

Richard Nelson, Preserve Naturalist

Steve Sciamè, Park Aide 6

Jen Sylvestri, Park Aide 5

Contact Station Personnel:

Tony Corda

Frederick Von Pichl

❖ Gallery Schedule at a Glance ❖



Cairo – 1997

“Transforming Images”

Work by Joseph Siegel

Exhibition: March 30 – April 27, 2014

Gallery Hours: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm daily

Natural imagery regarding people, structures and locations is his preoccupation. Decades of painting and sculpting have provided an informative and intuitive sense, interpreting images either as abstract or more literal renderings. Environments, spare and devoid of humans provide a quiet dignity and mystery.

Transforming photographic imagery through the painting process of encaustic oil application (working with pigment, wax and heat) was originally developed by the Greeks and Romans in the 4th century B.C.

“Butterflies and Blossoms”

by Audrey Leeds and Valerie Goodman

Exhibition: May 3 – June 22, 2014

The Art Gallery at the Rockefeller Preserve has the privilege of presenting a unique exhibition, “Butterflies and Blossoms” at the annual blooming of the Peony Garden in May. Dramatic fine art florals by Margaret Morrison, represented by the Woodward Gallery, are curated in an Inter-relationship with professional artists and humanists, Yuh-Mo Ahn and Jacques Jarriage, represented by the Valerie Goodman Gallery, who have been creating collaborative artistic works with people on the autism spectrum. This exhibition combines Morrison’s oil paintings, (a Putto / Butterfly portrait), classic paintings of Butterflies by Ivan Pazlamatchev and a profusion of colorful butterfly images accomplished at creative tutorials here and abroad.



SNAP Exhibit

Coming this Fall, open to professionals and amateurs.

More details will be posted on our web site, www.friendsrock.org

Bench, *continued from page 1*

his first wife with a gift to the preserve. Mr. Chin, known to family and friend as "P.H.," was a prominent scientist for IBM until he retired. He was tall and slim and handsome, had a beguiling chuckle when conversing, and the wonderful habit – whether discussing matters universal or a faulty light switch, – of announcing, "I have analyzed the problem and have arrived at a solution."

What also distinguished him was his love of the Rockefeller trails, starting when he was a young professional until very late in his life. He walked the trails and enjoyed the wonders of nature long before there was a preserve, and cherished his outings once the preserve was established.

He never calculated how far he had walked – or was it my oversight not to ask the scientist – but it had to be in the thousands of miles.



Photo: Laurence Gill

Later in life, he was obliged to sell his house situated across from a portion of the preserve and move with Loretta to Long Island. Before he visited us, he would call and ask us to ask the new people next door, Jennifer and Steve Poux and their children Sabine and Tucker, "Would it be all right to drop in and just see my old house?" It was a little heart-breaking, and they always obliged.

So enjoy the bench and all it stands for – a kind and brilliant gentleman and his family, who graced the trails, found beauty and serenity in them, and undoubtedly spent many hours analyzing problems and finding solutions.



I LOVE MY PARK
days
www.ptny.org

**A Statewide Event
to Celebrate NYS Parks
If you love your Park... Volunteer.**

**MAY 3rd, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

PROJECT 1: Once Upon a Preserve...

Tell us a story through words and/or pictures of Rockefeller State Park Preserve. Spread out across the Preserve to write stories and visually capture your favorite places and spring phenomena. By May 12th, donate your best digital photos, illustrations, and/or a story of 250 words or less with a signed release agreement. All ages are encouraged. Published work will be credited.

PROJECT 2: Clear the Way!

Join forces with Preserve staff to cut back encroaching vegetation and fallen trees along Nautre's Way and around the glacial erratic from 9:00am – 2:00pm. If we have a large turn-out, a second crew will remove fallen trees and repair the perimeter fence of the six-acre deer enclosure. Bring heavy work gloves, hand tools, and wear a hat, long-sleeves, and pants, as we guarantee thorns and ticks. The Friends of Rockefeller State Park will provide water and granola bars, just bring a packed lunch.

To register:

www.ptny.org/ilovemypark

Email: imeszaros@friendsrock.org

Call the Preserve office at 631-1470

or stop by and sign up!

www.friendsrock.org





The Preserve Observer

Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve
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Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591
www.friendsrock.org

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Upcoming Exhibits



See page 10 for details...

Family Fishing Day

Sunday, June 29

