

FOOTNOTES NEWSLETTER



FM# 541 (2295 State Route 89, Savannah, NY 13146)

June 2026

Folksmarch is a non-competitive walking event conducted monthly for people of all ages and abilities in Central New York.

Web: www.cnyfolksmarch.org Facebook: [@folksmarch](https://www.facebook.com/folksmarch) Twitter: [@folksmarch](https://twitter.com/folksmarch) Instagram: [@folksmarch](https://www.instagram.com/folksmarch)

June 2026 Folksmarch

Date: Saturday, June 13th,
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Annual Membership Pass: \$40
Includes Yearly Passport card
and 12 monthly walks.

Yearly Passport card: \$10
prorated semi-annually

Monthly Walking Rates:

First Time Walkers FREE!

Adults \$4.00

Youth 6-18 \$1.00

5 and under FREE

Family \$9.00 (max)

CNY Folksmarch Inc. - 2026

Board of Directors

Adria Ripka ('26), *President*

Barbara Crane ('26), *Secretary*

Brian Noll ('25), *Treasurer*

Board Members:

Eileen Arnold ('27)

Adria Ripka ('27)

Dawn Bennett ('26)

Erin Cunia ('26)

Lori Newcomb ('26)

Barbara Crane ('27)

Brian Noll ('25)

Join Us in June for a New Walk Experience

CNY Folksmarch will explore a new location, the Montezuma Audubon Center* at 2295 State Route 89, North, Savannah, NY 13146, during our June 2026 monthly walk. Please note: we will be walking on ONE DAY, only, Saturday, June 13. Hours for the walk will be 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. This should give both our morning and afternoon walkers a chance to enjoy this lovely location. You might want to bring binoculars for birding.



The Center is NOT open on Sunday and there was no convenient option for restrooms along Route 31 nearby.

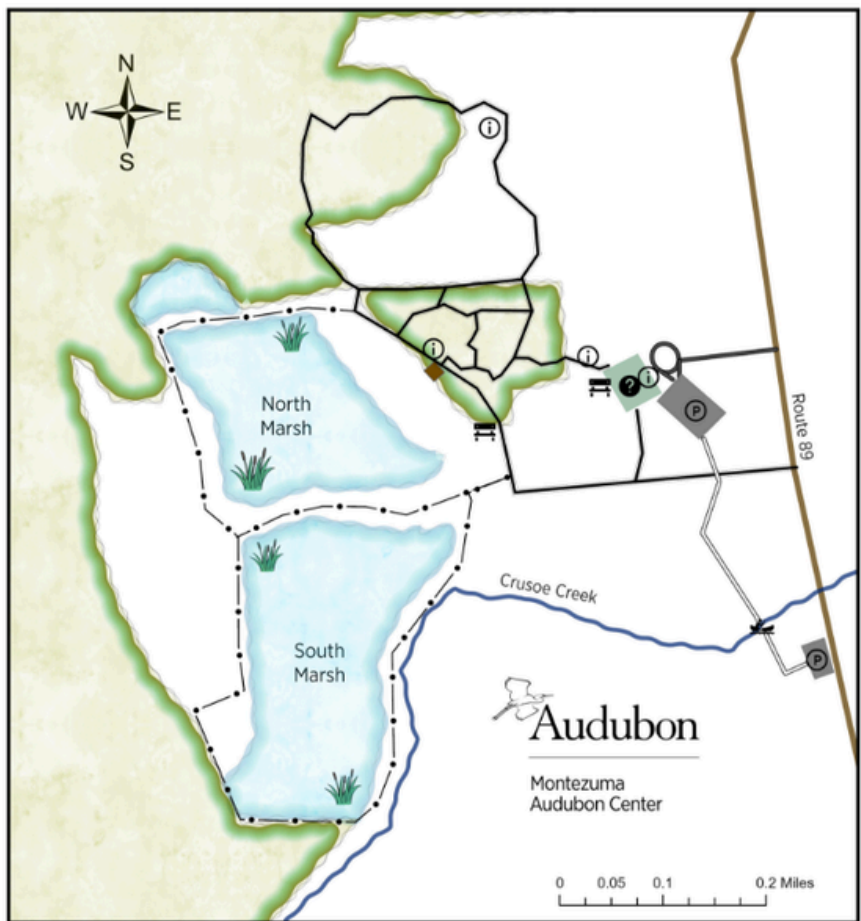
Explore the information center and paths at **Montezuma Audubon Center**. The center offers visitors great exhibits, a small gift shop, and the opportunity to walk the **North and South Marsh trails**, which are fairly level and open, or the **Forest Trail** that includes some steeper terrain. Walkers may walk their preference.

The Audubon Center is part of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex that offers several walking trails in and around the larger area. The Montezuma Audubon Center—a partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation—hosts thousands of visitors annually. Through a variety of programs, including For the Birds!, Youth Sportsman Summer Camp, and MARSH! (Montezuma Alliance for the Restoration of Species & Habitat), adults and children are connected to nature and learn how their actions can influence habitat health.

The easiest way to get to the Audubon Center is to travel WEST on the NYS Thruway and exit at Weedsport, exit 40. Turn RIGHT onto Route 34 and a quick RIGHT onto Route 31. Drive a little over 7 miles to the intersection of Routes 31 and 89. Turn RIGHT onto Route 89. The Audubon Center will be on your left a little less than a mile up the road. The main parking lot is to the left of the Center. If you don't care for the Thruway, you may take Route 5/20 west out of Auburn, or Route 31 West from Baldwinsville or Cicero and head to the intersection with Route 89.



*If you are a Sunday walker, and can't make this walk on Saturday, June 13, feel free to visit the Audubon Center during the month of June. Just get a small trail map from the Center, record the date of your visit, and show it to us at your next regular Folksmarch to receive you pin and stamp on your Passport or map.

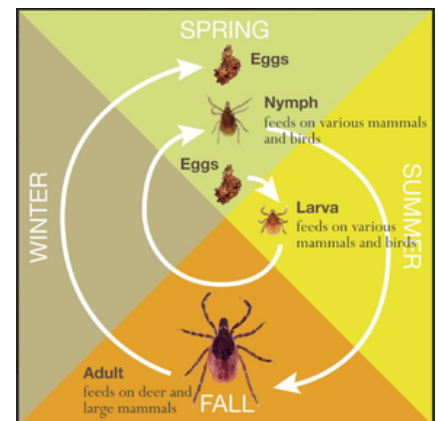


Tic-Toc. Tick Season is Here



Tick season in Central New York began in March, regardless of the chilly weather. We still have handouts provided by the Central New York Lyme Alliance during our May walk at Chittenango. Please feel free to take a handout to read and share with your friends. Tick season will run through Autumn with Summer months being prime time for their presence.

Remember to consider wearing long pants, and not shorts, depending on where you walk during the Summer. Stay on any paths at nature centers and parks and consider wearing long socks that come partially up your calves. You may want to invest in treated socks that have insect/tic repellent characteristics if you will be doing a lot of walking this Summer.



The Marsh trail at Montezuma Audubon Center will take walkers around two ponds. The trail is mown grass, not a chip or stone dust path. The Forest Path takes walkers through meadow area and into the forest. You might want to consider having some insect repellent on hand. Warmer temperatures may also be appealing to mosquitoes.

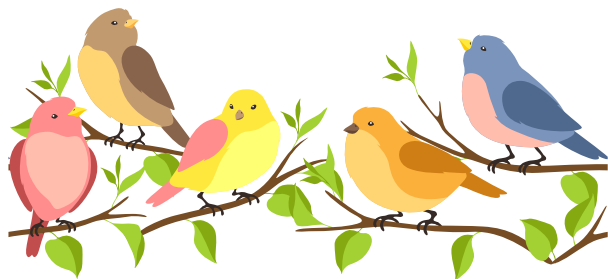
Montezuma Wetlands Complex

Our walk this month is part of the Wetlands Complex which covers 50,000 acres of wetlands that provide important habitat for migrating birds, waterfowl and shorebirds. Our walk is taking place at the **Montezuma Audubon Center in Savannah, north of the Thruway on State Route 89**. This is NOT part of the driving trail travelers can see from the NYS Thruway.

The entire complex Montezuma is situated in the middle of one of the busiest bird migration routes on the Atlantic Flyway. More than 240 species of birds can be found on the refuge, along with 43 species of mammals, 15 species of reptiles, and 16 species of amphibians. The 3.7-mile Wild Drive driving trail begins at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center off NY Routes 5 and 20. Folksmarchers may want to explore that location before or after walking at the Audubon Center. The refuge does not offer a walking trail that would match our Folksmarch needs.

Besides the Audubon Center and the Wildlife Refuge Center, there are 31 other walking opportunities within the Wetlands Complex. You will find a map of the complex at the Audubon Center and may want to become familiar with these other locations during your explorations this summer. Unfortunately, while many offer parking areas, most do not offer restroom facilities. Folksmarch would be delighted to hear your reports of any of the 31 areas to share via our Footnotes and other media.

Folksmarchers will have experienced walks over the past year at four facilities under the management of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (Salmon River Fish Hatchery, Onondaga Lake Information Center, Montezuma Audubon Center, and Oneida Fish Hatchery in July 2026). Our participants are grateful for their stewardship of these important locations and appreciate the friendliness and professionalism of the DEC staff that have welcomed us and provided information to make our walks memorable.



CHITTENANGO FALLS DID NOT DISAPPOINT

Walkers at our May Folksmarch were treated to the first Folksmarch of 2026 that did NOT present chilly, windy, or damp weather. Yes, it was abnormally warm for a weekend in May, but our walkers turned out to see this location.

Due to the abundant rain prior to our weekend, the Falls were magnificent. The view of the water from the top or at the base was really exhilarating. Walkers were able to choose from several walking paths using the park's excellent maps. There were plenty of picnic tables available and benches for taking a break. While the sign in location at the Outlook Pavilion was most readily available via stairs, it was convenient to the parking lot and was accessible via a paved path along the edge of the falls viewing path. One surprise was the start of the parking fee for the season. We were unaware of the parking fee when we checked the site close to our walk weekend. The \$5.00 fee did not seem to deter anyone from participating. Folksmarch will have a short survey at our next walk, or two, to get feedback on your willingness to walk at locations that ask for a parking fee during Summer. Your YES would open up more locations for our walks. To date, we have kept to locations that do not ask for a parking fee.

We are always delighted to greet our regular walkers as well as welcome first-time visitors. We hope first-timers Jo Ann P., Janet A., Donna B., Peggy K., and Tair Z. and wife continue to walk with us each month.

Thank you to our faithful workers this month, Eileen A., Dawn B., Barbara C. and Adria R. Thanks also to the helpful Park employees.

The drive to the Chittenango/Cazenovia area is always a pleasant drive. Folksmarch is exploring other locations east of Syracuse as we plan the remaining walks for 2026 and look ahead to 2027.



What, Exactly, is CNY Folksmarch

As our regular walkers, and hopefully new walkers know, CNY Folksmarch is a non-competitive walking group. The goal is to encourage people of all ages and abilities to get out and walk by meeting at a variety of locations in Central New York. For 40+ years, we have walked monthly on the second weekend of each month. Walks are usually 5k in length, but participants may walk as far as their abilities and interest allow.

The walks are the visible part of the organization. However, you may not know how we are structured. In 2016, when support by the Greater Syracuse YMCA was no longer available, a handful of long-time participants decided to continue the Folksmarch by forming a not-for-profit organization. Today, CNY Folksmarch is a 501(c)(3) organization that has a board of directors, officers, and bylaws.



2026 Walk Schedule

January - Destiny USA	July - DEC Oneida Fish Hatchery
February - Beaver Lake	August - Marcellus Park & Village
March - Onondaga Lake West	September - Great Swamp Conservancy
April - Burnet Park	October - Dewitt Town Hall & Canal Paths
May - Chittenango Falls State Park	November - Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego
June - Montezuma Audubon Center	December - Onondaga Lake Park, Liverpool