

FOOTNOTES NEWSLETTER



FM# 544 (8375 North Main Street, Canastota, NY 13032)

September 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)

September 2026 Folksmarch

Date: Saturday, September 12th, 9 am - 12 pm and Sunday, September 13th, 1 pm - 3pm.

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 ('26)

CNY Folksmarch Offers a GREAT Opportunity for September

CNY Folksmarch returns to a pleasant location on September 12 and 13. The Great Swamp Conservancy outside of Canastota, NY is located an easy drive from Syracuse, Oneida, Rome, and other central communities. We will register at their main information center at 8375 North Main Street, Canastota. The property is located at the corner of North Main Street and Pine Ridge Road.



The Conservancy offers trails along several restored wetland areas. While 7 miles of trails are available, we will stay within our 5K goal. Participants may walk as far as they are interested and/or able.

The Great Blue Heron rookery on the east side trail system is easy to view from the mowed path and the bird blind structure. You might want to bring your binoculars or a camera. There is a 900-foot boardwalk on the west side. Simpson Park has a catch-and-release fishing area for families and is located just 1/8 of a mile away from our Main Location.

A variety of environmental programs are offered for adults and children during each season. The Swamp Snappers Camera Club will be onsite during our Saturday hours. Visitors are welcome to walk the trails from dawn to dusk and picnic on the grounds without staff present. There is also a nice gift shop good for a browse.

Be sure to check the weather before you set out to the walk. Some areas may be very wet if we've had rain. Check our Folksmarch page to any updates we can provide.

Directions are taken from the Conservancy website:

From NYS Thruway:

Take Interstate 90 to Exit 34 in Canastota, NY. Turn left onto Route 13 South, in 100 yards turn right on Maple St. Turn right on North Main St. and follow for about 3 miles. The Great Swamp Conservancy is located on the corners of N. Main St. and Pine Ridge Rd.

From Route 31 (East or West):

Turn South onto North Main Street and continue about 3 miles to Pine Ridge Road.



CNY FOLKSMARCH 45TH ANNIVERSARY

CNY Folksmarch is reaching another milestone in providing opportunities for people to explore new or familiar locations as part of their walking practices. Folksmarch will celebrate its 45th anniversary in 2026 at the Annual Meeting in November! That month's walk will be held a weekend earlier than usual at Rice Creek Field Station in Oswego, NY. The walk will be held during usual hours of 9 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, November 7 and between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 8. We hope our Annual Pass and Passport holders, and anyone else interested, will make an effort to attend the Annual Meeting on November 7th around 12:30 p.m.

Why are we walking earlier than the second weekend of the month? Popular outdoor venues often fill their weekend schedules by February every year. That was the case at Rice Creek. The field station would not have staff available for our typical second weekend, so we moved our dates to the first weekend to have both Saturday and Sunday available. It was important, as well, for the Annual Meeting to be held indoors.

Nominations for Board Member and Officers

One of the annual tasks the Board is required to complete is to open nominations for:

- CNY Folksmarch Board Members and
- Board officers.

If you look at the front page of the Footnotes Newsletter, you will see that several Board members' terms expire at the end of 2026. We also have a vacancy on the board for Vice President that really needs to be filled.

What does it mean to be involved as a Board member? It means that member meets quarterly with other Board members to review financial reports, keep costs affordable, make sure we are meeting guidelines for a non-for-profit organization, and contribute actively to determine locations for our monthly walks. This is really a hands-on Board. We meet in person at a convenient location to review the quarter's results and project future walk sites.

Please consider how you can help the monthly walks continue by participating on the Board. That small group has been handling the operation of the organization since 2016. It is also important that we bring in some new folks to the Board to get new ideas and energy. Board terms are for three years. Officer terms are for two years.

The Nominating Committee will present the slate of proposed Board members and Officers at the Annual Meeting. All members (Passport and Annual Pass holders) in attendance are entitled to vote for the board members whose terms will begin January 1.

Nomination forms will be available at the September and October walks. You may nominate a person you feel would be a great Board member. Feel free to nomination yourself! The Board may be able to provide an online option for nominations, as well. Nominations will close on October 24, 2026.

A MARVELOUS WALK IN MARCELLUS

The weather cooperated during our August walk in and around Marcellus Park and the village. Participants had the option to stay within the park or walk the rectangular route to the village and back. Saturday offered a farmers' market, new bakery, and new retail shop to those interested in walking the “sidewalk” route. The park offered plenty of places to walk, sit and enjoy the creek, or picnic.

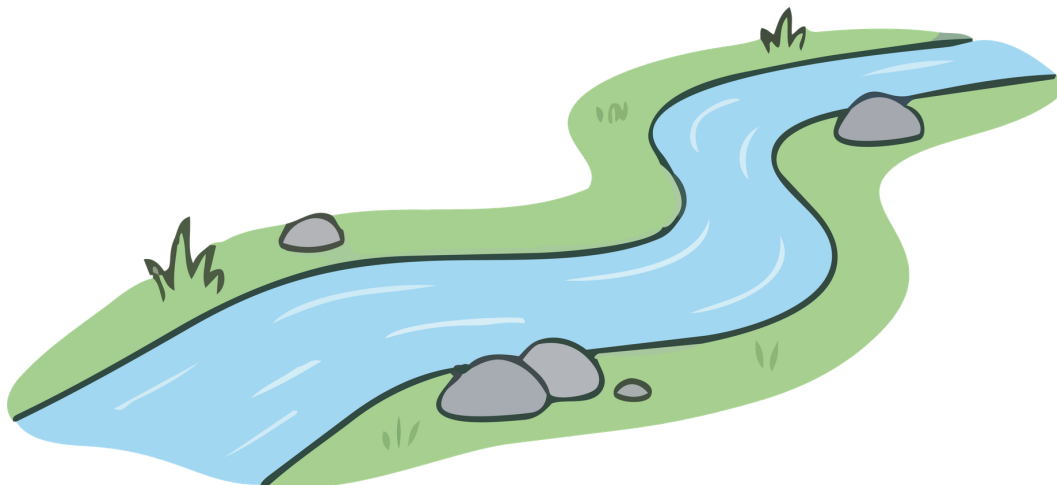
Having two different registration locations didn't seem to faze our walkers. The pavilion for Saturday was clearly marked. The Welcome Center on Sunday was also easy to find. The Folksmarch banner was displayed on both days to help identify the registration site. We had to improvise for Sunday and use a vehicle as the display holder. Aren't we ingenious?



We welcome several first-time walkers to Folksmarch: they include Patricia R. and Rich B.

Board members Brian, on Saturday, and Lori on Sunday, offered help at registration. The park staff members checked on us on both days and were very helpful.

CNY Folksmarch has several locations that worked well over the years, just like Marcellus Park. We try to visit those locations on a rotating basis because you, our walkers always enjoy their convenience and pleasant atmosphere. You will see some of those favorites in the walks coming up in 2027. The Board is working to finalize at least the first 6 months for 2027. Look for updates at a future walk or on our website.



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