

FOOTNOTES NEWSLETTER



FM# 545 (5400 Butternut Dr., East Syracuse, NY 13057)

October 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)

October 2026 Folksmarch

Date: Saturday, October 10th,
9 am – 12 pm and Sunday,
October 11th, 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)

A WALK – but not 15 miles! – ON THE ERIE CANAL

Our walk on October 10 & 11 starts at the pavilion in Ryder Park next to the DeWitt Town Offices (9 am–12 pm on Saturday 10/10 and 1–3 pm on Sunday 10/11). Ryder Park is located at 5400 Butternut Dr., E. Syracuse, NY 13057.



The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, was originally 363 miles from the Hudson River to Lake Erie and connected the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes near Buffalo*. It was a feat of engineering with its many locks providing a cheaper way than wagons to transport people and goods westward. In the early 20th century, parts of the original canal were destroyed (ex. to make Erie Boulevard right through the City of Syracuse) when the NYS Barge Canal was built (*source: Wikipedia). Be sure to check out the Erie Canal Museum at 318 Erie Blvd. E., Syracuse 13202.

The Town of DeWitt keeps the path up to the Canal clean and available. Pets on leashes are allowed, with owners cleaning up droppings. There will be a garbage bag at the pavilion, and a depository for bagged droppings at Cedar Bay Park.

Directions: From Syracuse, take Route 5 east (or Rt. 690 east to Bridge St.), left onto Bridge St., right onto Butternut Dr. for about 1.1 miles and left into Town of DeWitt parking lot. From the east, take Rt. 5 west, right onto Rt. 290 which becomes Bridge St., left onto Butternut Dr., and left into Town of DeWitt parking lot.



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.

Important CNY Folksmarch Board Updates

Nominations to the Board of CNY Folksmarch are now open. The term begins on January 1, 2027, and is a 3-year term.

If you would like to nominate an individual to become a Board member of CNY Folksmarch, please do the following:

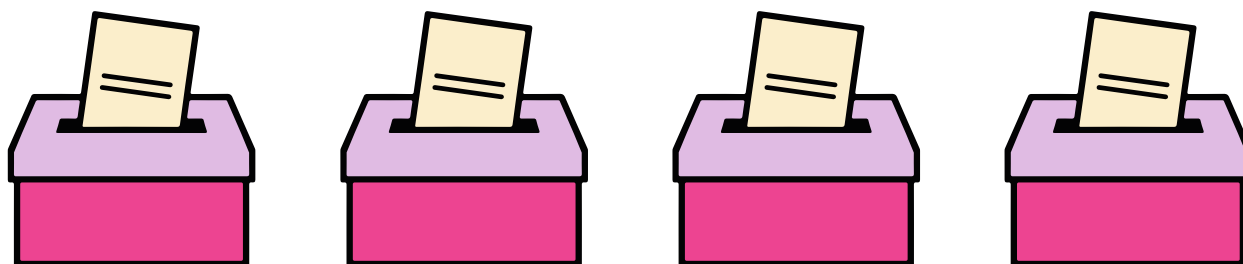
1. Make sure your nominee is interested in becoming a Board member.
2. Provide their name and phone number using the form available at the October walk or submit a nomination via email.

You may submit a nomination via email to Barbara.crane143@gmail.com. Please provide the name and phone number of your nominee(s) as indicated below.

If YOU are interested in joining the CNY Folksmarch Board as a Board member, please see an officer at the September walk or send an email to adriaripka@hotmail.com.

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting in November or December 2026.

Deadline for receipt of nominations is November 1, 2026.



Keep CNY Folksmarch Active into the Future

At the annual meeting this year, CNY Folksmarch will celebrate its 45th year of walking in Central New York. The last 10 years have been as the Not-for-Profit, CNY Folksmarch. That is an amazing accomplishment that deserves some recognition. While we won't have a fancy dinner event, there will be light refreshments at the annual meeting. We are finalizing plans to hold that meeting at our November walk at Rice Creek Field Station in Oswego. We will confirm the location, in case it changes, via the Footnotes and Facebook.

While the annual meeting is open to anyone, **all 2026 Annual Pass Holders and Annual Passport Holders** are invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Purchasing either of those two items makes you members of CNY Folksmarch and makes you eligible to take part in elections for 2027. In order to keep CNY Folksmarch going into 2027 and beyond, we NEED additional board members and people willing to fill potential board positions. You will see expiration dates in the side column on the front page of this edition.

Board members serve a 3-year term. Board members meet quarterly to conduct organization business. If needed, we can meet more often if there are issues that need discussion. Officers serve 2-year terms. Most of the current board members have been on the board in one capacity or another for the past 10 years.

We hope each of our walkers will consider getting involved in the operation of CNY Folksmarch. Additionally, the group needs volunteers for the monthly walks. It isn't fair for walk coordination to fall upon the same two or three people every month. An individual doesn't need to be an Annual Pass Holder or Annual Passport Holder to help at a walk. Volunteer sign-up sheets are available at every registration.

We hope you will consider how you can keep CNY Folksmarch a viable organization as we continue to explore Central New York providing walk opportunities for health and fellowship.

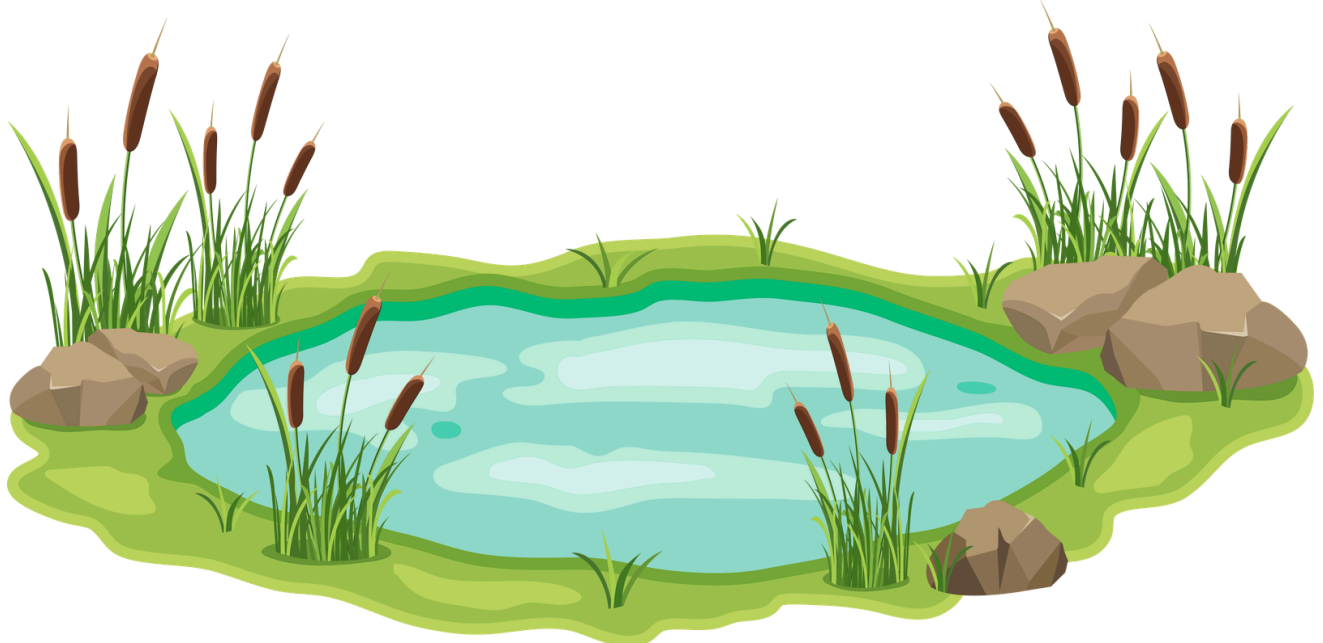
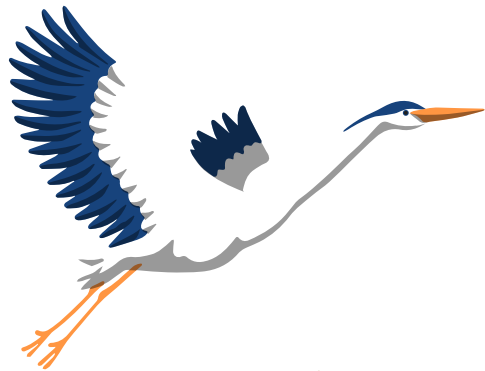


A WARM WELCOME AND A WARM WALK IN SEPTEMBER

Mother Nature provided a surprisingly pleasant weekend for our walk at the Great Swamp Conservancy outside of Canastota in September. Saturday morning's early temperature was a chilly 49 degrees F. However, by 10 a.m. our intrepid walkers were returning from a walk in hot sun!

Rain was in the forecast for Saturday afternoon and didn't show up until well after our walk time. Overnight rain could have made Sunday a damp walk. However, the paths were fine. The conservancy grounds consisted of mowed paths and offered the chance to see some birds. One group of walkers espied a lone heron and a bald eagle. The displays in the large main building were very interesting. Director Rusty, and Eleanor from GSC helped on Saturday, along with Folksmarchers Stacy N. and Sara N. Bri from GSC, along with Barbara C. and Adria R. from Folksmarch volunteered on Sunday. All our helpers were wonderful to work with.

The Conservancy has been active for 29 years and their growth had allowed them to offer many interesting programs for all ages. We look forward to a future walk more closely aligned with the best months to see the herons.



Hiking Tips from the NYS Department of Conservation

Safe and Sound: Fall Hiking

October in New York brings cool, transitional weather with average statewide highs around 64°F and lows near 45°F to 50°F. Higher elevations, like the Adirondacks and Catskills, face sharper drops, occasionally seeing frost or early snow while days grow noticeably shorter. During this time of year, the following weather and trail hazards can impact outdoor excursions:

- Rapid Temperature Drops- Temperatures can plummet quickly, especially at higher elevations, creating a risk of hypothermia if you get wet or stranded.
- Slippery Footing- Wet leaves, pine needles, and morning frost make rocks, roots, and steep trails very slick.
- Hidden Markers- Fallen foliage can cover and obscure trail paths and markers, increasing the risk of getting lost.
- Shorter Days- Sunset occurs much earlier in the evening; a headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries is essential.

DEC reminds New Yorkers to Hike Smart and be prepared. Visit [Hike Smart NY](#) to watch an informational video with advice from a Forest Ranger and to prepare for your next outdoor excursion this fall.



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