

FOOTNOTES NEWSLETTER



FM# 546 (193 Thompson Rd., Oswego, NY 13126)

November 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)

November 2026 Folksmarch

Date: Saturday, November 7th,
9 am - 12 pm and Sunday,
November 8th, 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 ('27), *Treasurer*

Board Members:

Eileen Arnold ('27)

Adria Ripka ('27)

Dawn Bennett ('26)

Erin Cunia ('26)

Lori Newcomb ('26)

Barbara Crane ('27)

Brian Noll ('28)

Exploring Rice Creek Field Station in November

We had to move one week earlier in November to have a two-day walk. CNY Folksmarch returns to Rice Creek Field Station for our November 2026 weekend walk on Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. to Noon, and on Sunday, November 8 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Folksmarchers are a flexible bunch, we always need to keep in mind the availability of staff at our walk sites, this month included.



We will hold the 2026 Annual Meeting at 12:30 p.m., inviting, and expecting Annual Pass Holders and Yearly Passport holders to make an effort to attend.

Rice Creek Field Station at SUNY Oswego is located at 193 Thompson Road, Oswego, NY 13126. The station supports academic instruction, research, and public service in the natural sciences and environmental education. It aims to provide a well-equipped facility for faculty, students, and the regional community.

Located one mile south of the main campus, their mission is to be a living laboratory for the advancement of knowledge through research, education, and stewardship of the natural world.

Rice Creek Field Station features a 7,640-square-foot main building. The station also includes an astronomical observatory, and a vast 350-acre nature preserve. There are 5 trails our walkers may choose from ranging in distance from .75 miles to 2.05 miles. We will try to have an idea of which trails may be best suited for walking on November 7 and 8 based on recent weather conditions.

For driving directions, President Adria found the Google Map directions made things harder than they need to be. Her suggestion is to

1. get to Oswego via Interstate 481, State Routes 57 or 48*
2. When you reach State Route 104 (Bridge Street) in Oswego, turn left onto Bridge Street. Continue along Route 104 until you get near the SUNY Oswego campus, which will be on your right.
3. Less than a quarter of a mile past the college entrance, turn LEFT onto Thompson Road. Rice Creek Field Station entrance will be on your right. Turn in, go past the small upper lot, and continue down the small driving trail to the main building.

*Route 57 through Liverpool merges into Interstate 481 in Fulton. Just continue north to Oswego. Route 48 "begins" where Route 690 West ends in Baldwinsville. Just continue north to Oswego.



2026 Annual Meeting of CNY Folksmarch



CNY Folksmarch Board will hold the organization's annual meeting after the Saturday, November 7 walk at Ride Creek Field Station. The meeting will begin around 12:30 and will last approximately one hour.

Items on the agenda include:

1. Call to Order
2. Review of the 2025 Annual Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Nomination for board members
5. Election of Officers
6. Other business:
 - a. Locations for walks in 2027
 - b. Awarding of 10-walk pins
 - c. Comments regarding the walk locations for 2026
7. Continuation of CNY Folksmarch for 2027



2026 is a milestone year for CNY Folksmarch. We reached our 45th anniversary of monthly walks with the October 2026 walk at Ryder Park in Dewitt. Over the years, this group has continued to find interesting places for Central New York residents to explore. The board has kept the cost to walkers at the original prices and added a half-price amount for military veterans. Periodic public service activities, like the winter mitten collection or the Thanksgiving food drive, have allowed our participants to benefit a local not-for-profit.

As part of the Annual Meeting, we will have light refreshments available to help celebrate our 45-year milestone.

The meeting is open to any interested individual. However, only Annual Pass Holders and Yearly Passport holders can vote on officers and the other business items on the agenda.

It is vital that as many Annual Pass Holders and Yearly Passport holders attend the annual meeting. You will notice, in the left-hand column of the Footnotes, that several board members have expiring terms, as well as several officers. Without people willing to fill those board and/or officer positions, CNY Folksmarch may not be able to continue.

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 by submitting a nomination via email as shown below.

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

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

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on November 7, 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.

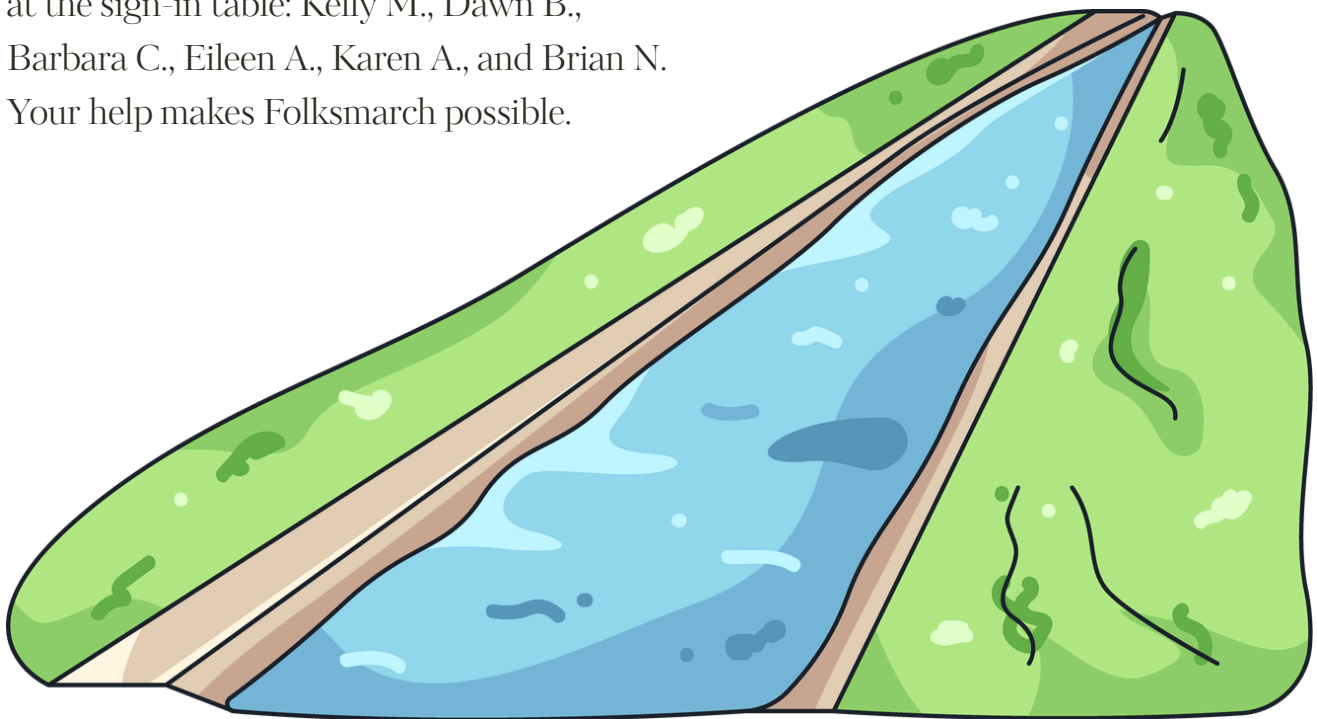


RECAPTURING ERIE CANAL SIGHTS AND MEMORIES

October provided a lovely weekend, warm and sunny on Saturday and rain free on Sunday afternoon. The 5k walk from the Ryder Park pavilion to Cedar Bay Park and back was just right for most walkers although some extended their walk- one person counted 19,000 steps! The trees were sporting their colors, yellow, and orange interspersed with green and vibrant red sumac. Some people had never been to Ryder Park before and commented on how nice it was, especially with the small pond just beyond the pavilion.

Saturday's enticing fall weather brought 3 new walkers to Folksmarch, allowing us to welcome Bill and Petey S. and Tom T as First Timers. Next month's walk at Rice Creek should be just as enticing in a more rural environment with several nature trails to explore. Come and see!

Thanks to DeWitt Town Parks for the use of the pavilion and especially to our FM workers at the sign-in table: Kelly M., Dawn B., Barbara C., Eileen A., Karen A., and Brian N. Your help makes Folksmarch possible.



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