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Waterloo adopts tentative town budget

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SENIOR NEWS OF THE FINGER LAKES



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Victorian psychic tea set at SFHS

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Light Side

Johnny: "Do you think people can predict the future with cards?"

Jimmy: "My mother sure can. She takes one look at my report card and tells me exactly what will happen when Dad gets home."

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Willard/Ovid

IBA, education, family fun

Wetlands thrive

Two years ago, Audubon New York announced the designation of Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve in Seneca Falls as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The Important Bird Area program is an international bird conservation initiative with the significant goal of identifying the most important places for birds and conserving them.

With 1,100 acres of preserved land, Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve is managed by Seneca Meadows and is permanently protected through a conservation easement. The Preserve is teeming with countless species of wildlife and provides vital habitat, food, and water sources that many bird species depend upon to successfully raise young during the spring and summer and for survival in the cold winter months.

With diverse wetlands and grasslands, the Preserve supports an exemplary range of upland savanna and tall grass prairie and includes seven miles of hiking, walking and biking trails for observing wildlife. The Preserve met the IBA criterion for at-risk species because of the number of breeding pied-billed grebe and American and least bitterns and wintering short-eared owls. Additional wetland species supported at the Preserve include common gallinule, Wilson's snipe, marsh wren and wood duck. The site also sup-

ports a suite of representative grassland birds in addition to the short-eared owl, including bobolink, savannah sparrow and northern harrier.

The Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve has also helped wildlife biologists at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area restore important wetlands and grasslands. Earlier this summer, the Montezuma Audubon Center organized two volunteer events that were attended by over 100 individuals. The families, college students and retirees collected nearly 70 pounds of seed from native vegetation to be used to restore similar habitats around the nearby Montezuma Wetlands Complex in Tyre. This seed would have cost the Montezuma staff over \$15,000 to purchase.

ADDITIONAL SEED COLLECTING and habitat restoration projects were planned in September and will continue in October. Visit <http://ny.audubon.org/montezuma> to find out how you can get involved and make a positive environmental impact in your own community.

With all these amazing habitats, wonderful birds and an extensive trail system, the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve is attracting

birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts from across the Finger Lakes Region. Bird watching is the fastest growing outdoor recreation activity in New York and across the country, and one that contributes billions each year to state and local economies. In 2012, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported in New York alone 3.8 million people watch birds and other wildlife, and generate approximately \$1.6 billion in ecotourism revenue annually. The significant economic impact of ecotourism has benefited local businesses and the greater Central New York area.

Audubon New York and Seneca Meadows will continue collaborating on engaging and innovative programming designed to explore the tremendous quality of life offered in Seneca Falls and attract and educate residents and tourists of all ages on the vital role a healthy ecosystem plays in the daily lives of birds, people, and communities.

THROUGH THE COLLABORATION of Audubon New York and Seneca Meadows, the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve IBA serves as a gateway for connecting the community to nature through year-round educational programs including some family fun

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Kime lime

The Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association says new lake water samples taken Sept. 19 at Kime Beach, Fayette, have confirmed the presence of new blooms of cyanobacteria, commonly referred to as Blue-Green Algae. Hobart and William Smith College's Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) tested the samples from two locations along Kime Beach and found levels of cyanobacteria that are considered harmful to people and animals in both samples. Several other visual reports of suspicious algae blooms have been reported from around the lake during this summer season. The algae has the consistency of pea soup in many cases. It asks you report blooms to them at (800) 220-1609 or by e-mail to senecahabs@senecalake.org. Give them location, day and time spotted and send a picture if you can.

Photo by Finger Lakes News Radio