

THE MULE

FALL 2021

www.eriecanalcamillus.com



Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park - Founded 1972

July BBQ

Strong rain and sloppy mud didn't stop the canal BBQ and award picnic on July 17. Guests came to order with the blowing of the conch shell around noon. People stayed mostly dry at the freshly painted picnic tables in the pavilion. The usual delicious food was kept dry under tents. Meanwhile, the **Monday Night Jammers** provided great music while people ate.

After everyone was full of chicken and onto dessert, the program began with a list of those volunteers who passed away during the past year; each name was accompanied by the peal of a bell. These folks will be missed.

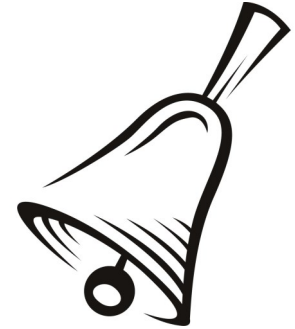
As awards were presented, each volunteer slogged through the mud to receive their tokens. Although Dave mentioned that the mud was a normal canal experience and to ignore it, we came close to a few disasters as people walked back and forth. At the end, the winning ticket for the raffle was held by Marie Miczan. Congratulations Marie on your new basket of wonderful goodies.

Thanks to the following people for their contributions, both for making the BBQ happen and for their work during the past year:

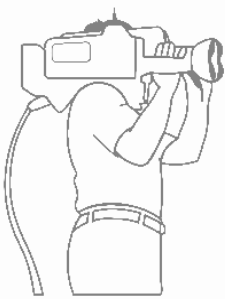
Parking: Larry Barnes Conch Shell: Paul Bertan T-shirts: Steve Poli Barbara Brady Larry Young Reservations: Corrine Kinane Larry Young Membership: Pat Cooper Raffle: Pat Cooper Reporter: Pat Baker Photos: Tom Barba Music: Monday Night Jammers	Kitchen Crew: Joe Menzel Steve Poli Ed Morgan Vickie Menzel Marcia Bower Marcia Russo Joe and Marge Adams Tony Lasinski visiting members of the Menzel Family
Super Heroes: People who stepped up Pat Cooper Gail Banks Barbara Brady Michelle Graveline Liz Beebe Michelle and Emily Dave Bean Fred and Carol Cossick Steve Poli Ed Morgan Jean Thomas Nadine Watson Victor Clovis Diane Cross	Also Recognized were: Remo Bianco - for the Catherine Don Mosher - miles of mowing Ron Cottet and Lonnie Warner - painting Corrine Kinane and Larry Young - Taking care of reservations
Aqueduct Award Plaques 2021 Emily Cerchia Michelle Graveline David Holzhaer Bill and Margaret Hoover Steve Fazekas Jean Thomas Antoinette Valerino Marge and Joe Adams	Life Time Achievement 2021 Richard and Pat Allen Barbara Blanchard Victor Clovis Roger Pisarek Linda Vishnesky Remo Bianco
Volunteers Of The Year Awards 2021 David Bean Michelle Graveline Jim Murphy	Outhouse Award 2021 Larry Barnes Newbie Award 2021 Bill Kunkle

Dedication Of DeWitt Clinton's Overlook In Memory Of Louise Wagner

On a beautiful summer's day, members of the Education Committee, guests from **St. Luke's Church**, and friends of **Louise Wagner** walked up to the new **DeWitt Clinton's Overlook**. **Janet Conners**, Education Chair, rang the school bell that had been given to Louise by her fourth grade teacher at **Warners Elementary School**. Janet told of the development of the overlook and its role in our education programs. **Fr. Jon White**, **Rector** of **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**, related the story of Jacob's Well and the importance of both the water of the well throughout the ages and waters of the **Erie Canal** that connected the eastern United States with the Midwest. Close friends of Louise Wagner, **Kathy and Ron Bowman**, told us stories of how Louise had enriched their lives. Guests enjoyed good conversation over cookies and punch in the pavilion.



Lights, Camera, Action!



This summer, you may have seen a **Channel 9** photographer filming a group of youngsters dressed in canal outfits perhaps operating the stump puller or using a machine from the red barn to shuck corn. Thanks to generous grants from **CNY Arts** and **The Solvay Bank**, the **Education Committee**, along with the **Channel 9** photographer, are able to create YouTube videos introducing the highlights of our wonderful site, canal history, and life in the 1850s, all based on the school tours curriculum. Scripts were written by school tour docents **Mary Ellen Hoag**, **Helene McNeer**, **Sue Paddock**, **Margaret Hoover**, and **Janet Conners**. The documentary videos will be narrated by **Channel 9** meteorologists, **John DiPasquale** and **Kate Thornton**. **Brent Finizio**, a West Genesee grad, **Channel 9** photographer, and graphic designer, has many amazing ideas for creating these documentaries. He will develop a YouTube channel for our new canal videos, so that students in classrooms around the world can click on a video to see and learn about canal history presented at the **Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park**. Hopefully adults will also click on our website link to see the videos and will be enticed to bring themselves and their families for an in-person visit and boat ride. The videos are now in the cutting room so stay tuned for the grand debut later this fall!

Albany to Buffalo

On Wednesday, July 14, 2021, more than 300 cyclists from 39 different states and foreign countries arrived at the **Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park** on their way along the tow path from Buffalo to Albany. When they approached Sims Store, they were greeted with cheers, cow bells and enthusiastic volunteers. It's very exciting for the cyclists to reach Camillus, the halfway mark.

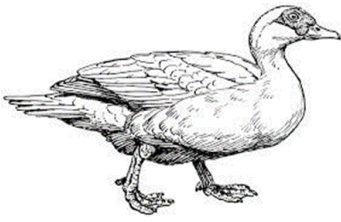
Cyclists were offered the opportunity to send a postcard from our little **Sims' Store Post Office**. The Post Office volunteers, **Pat Burdick**, **Mary Ellen Hoag**, and **Helene McNeer** enjoyed speaking with the cyclists and hearing their stories while they wrote their postcards. They were told all about the cyclists' lives, love stories, life along the bike trail, and other interesting personal information.

Many riders told us how much they enjoyed eating the hot dogs, popcorn, brownies, cookies, and ice cream sandwiches our site provided. **Sims' Store Museum** and the boat ride were highlights of their visit to our park. The **Soda Ash Six Band** provided wonderful entertainment in the Pavilion.

With so much to offer, it's not hard to guess that we are the favorite spot along their trek!



“Little black duck doing what he oughta”



We have a Muscovy duck that likes to hang out on our *AQUADUCK.* One day we didn't happen to see him. When the Lock Shanty was opened for regular Sunday visitors a loud cry went up. To our amazement the duck was stuck head first in the stove pipe. **Tony Lasinsky** came to the rescue and lifted the stove pipe from its base, and **Liz** took it outside where the duck wiggled free and “flew the coop!”

Tuesdays on the Towpath

This summer was filled with bike rides starting with two led by members of our Camillus group. The first one was May 16th when **Linda Vishnesky** led a group of 17 from Rt. 173 over the new trail on Honeywell property to **Gere Lock**, where **Dave Beebe** gave a wonderful presentation on the workings of the lock.

The second one was August 3rd and we met at the visitors' center on Onondaga Lake to take a shoreline ride over the brand-new CSX pedestrian/bike bridge. We stopped for a look all the way down Onondaga Lake, then continued to the Creekwalk behind Destiny Mall. We were treated to an interesting talk complete with pictures all about the eagles that are making the lake shore their home.



August 14th was a warm sunny Saturday when we celebrated the closing of the "GAP" on the bike trail from Camillus, through Syracuse to the Dewitt Butternut Creek along the Empire State Trail. We joined approximately 150 people at the Erie Canal Museum downtown for the reenactment of the **Wedding of the Waters**. There was live music, refreshments and speeches. Linda was so honored to be asked to draw water from our own canal in one of the tin containers from the shelves at Sims Store and very carefully take it in her bike basket as she led more than 50 cyclists from Reed Webster Park to the Erie Canal Museum downtown. Two people from Dewitt and our own **Linda Vishnesky** stood in the actual canal (now filled with stones) and together poured their contents together in one stream of water. They reenacted the first Wedding of the Waters performed by Governor Dewitt Clinton in October 1825 as he joined the waters from Lake Erie and the Atlantic Ocean and thus opened up commerce and travel to the interior of our country. Linda was totally honored and humbled to do this.

It is so exciting that the efforts of so many people for so many years (starting with our own **Liz and Dave Beebe** who literally put decades into making it safe to bike from Camillus via Erie Boulevard to the Butternut Creek Aqueduct trail) have finally come to fruition. Linda reports that she has ridden down Erie Blvd East on the new nicely designed and very safe trail to Butternut Creek and says it's really fun.

Calendar of Events 2021—2022

December 5, 2021	Holiday Party
March 19, 2022	Volunteer Dinner-Senior Center
April 2022	Training Month
April 9, 2022	Orientation Day
April 23, 2022	Clean Sweep
May 1, 2022	Opening Day
May 4, 2022	School Tours Begin
May 30, 2022	Memorial Day Parade And Picnic
July 13, 2022	Cycle The Erie
July 23, 2022	Chicken BBQ
August 13, 2022	Towpath Day

Can You Help Us Keep Our Cool?

Please remember to make your donation to the project to install air conditioning in the three upstairs public rooms of the museum and the kitchen. Thank you.

Please make checks (marked A/C) out to:
The Camillus Canal Society

Mailing Address:
Gail Banks, Treasurer
Camillus Canal Society
217 Everingham Road
Syracuse, NY 13205

Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park
 5750 Devoe Road
 Camillus, NY 13031



Camillus Canal Society, Inc.	
New Membership or Renewal Application	
Please Circle: New Renewal	
Individual Adult - \$15.00	Sustaining - \$50.00
Senior Citizen (60 and Over) - \$10.00	Sponsor - \$100.00
Family - \$35.00	
Make check payable to Camillus Canal Society, Inc.	
Name:	
Address:	
City, State Zip:	
Phone:	Cell Phone:
E-mail Address:	
Please Contact Me About Volunteering	
Mail To: Pat Cooper, 2633 Brickyard Road, Warners, NY 13164	
New Memberships Received after June 1 Will Pay Half Price for That Year. The Half Price Feature Does Not Apply to Renewals.	