



# EMPIRE STATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FCRV



Summer Issue 2019

## Words from Wittmeyers: NY State Report

It already seems like a distant memory, but we're glad to report that our State Campout in May was a wonderful success. We saw a few more families than last year, and acknowledged that some old friends will no longer be camping with us. We had a goofy Murder Mystery and those with character roles really got into it, including proper attire and attitude! There was plenty of good food, a very informative presentation on nasty plants and bugs from State Conservation Chairmen Mike & Carol Burns, our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony, games, cards and plenty of conversation. Many thanks to those who helped out, and to co-chair, Kathy Collier. Plans are in the works for 2020; we will keep you posted!

The National Campvention was held in Hutchinson, Kansas, and it was hot and dry all week. Air conditioned buildings made for comfortable meetings and hospitalities, and the entertainment was amazing! We even got a couple of young people from the Baker Family to join us for horseshoes on Tuesday morning. Pictures can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

While in Kansas we got to tour the Stratataca Salt Museum, the only salt museum 650 feet underground.



If it looks big, it is! The place is 67 square miles of mined out spaces and 40 ft. wide columns left in place to support the roof.

## NYSA President



As I sit to write this article on Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> it's a true reality that fall is at our door step, hopefully there will still be some great camping weather ahead before we have to winterize our rigs. Looking forward we are planning a "Go To" (online) meeting shortly as the business we have to discuss is essentially spring state. Everyones' schedule is so busy it seems the best approach we will push out date and time to people when it is scheduled. Other than that as you know we have no fall camp out but that doesn't stop a group of people from finding a location and invite others to join them. I know some still have district campouts in the fall and this might be a way to enjoy a meeting-free campout and still get together to see people. I know our schedule is very full with Kerri's Brockport volleyball season



starting over Labor Day weekend, so I know it might be hard to find a date time location but we all can try. Fall is just a beautiful time to enjoy. I look forward to seeing you, and have a great Labor Day weekend.

*Sean McHale*  
NYSA President



## Wittmeyer's Column (cont.)

We encountered many FCRV members in the mine and museum during our tour.

A six ton block of salt ↓



Meanwhile back at the Campvention, winners from New York included Ian Burns, Conservation Poster ages 9 – 11; Patty Wittmeyer, Ladies Singles Horseshoes, Women's Doubles Horseshoes with Connie Black of Indiana, and Women's Singles Ladder Golf. Joe Wittmeyer and Patty won Mixed Doubles Ladder Golf. Nyhl Austin was part of the winning foursome in the FCRV Golf outing. Sue Fromholzer, of Cheektowaga, NY was installed for a second term as the national Vice President – Operations.

Christine Wheaton, of Top of the Hill Chapter in the Finger Lakes District, has been awarded the National Humanitarian Award for her involvement with Quilts of Valor, an organization that creates and donates quilts to service members and veterans touched by war. All in all, New York had a fine showing at National!

Campvention 2020 will be in Brigden, Ontario, over near Sarnia (northeast of Detroit). Dates are July 13-17. The theme will be "The True North, Strong & Free".

*Joe & Patty Wittmeyer*  
NYSA State Directors



## Rebuilt Marina Opens at Sampson State Park on Seneca Lake

The largest of the Finger Lakes now has a new marina as part of a \$7.5 million public-private partnership at Sampson State Park.

The rebuilt marina at the park features more than 90 slips with power and water connections, replacing an aging, worn-out facility that had been drawing decreasing boat traffic. Dredged out to increase its depth, the marina also includes launching ramps for jet skis, as well as for canoes and kayaks.

In partnership with New York State Parks and the New York State Canal Corporation, Westerloo-based developers SamSen LLC also will create an area for long-term camping at the 2,000-acre park.

Under a 40-year lease agreement with the state, SamSen can also develop and operate a long-term RV campground, cabin rentals, and boat rentals at both Sampson and Seneca Lake State Parks.

## Major Restoration of Buffalo's Darwin Martin House Complete



Restoration of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed estate and landscape, which is a New York State Historic Site, is now complete after more than two decades.

Constructed in Buffalo between 1903 and 1905, the complex is an example of Wright's Prairie House style, and includes the main residence and a secondary residence, which have both been renovated, as well as carriage house, gardener's cottage and glass-roofed conservatory.

The most recent work by Rochester-based Bayer Landscape Architecture included recreation of the floricycle, which contains more than 20,000 perennials, bulbs and shrubs, as well as plantings of numerous plants, shrubs and trees in keeping with Wright's original architectural and landscape features.

## AROUND THE STATE

This year the **Thundering Herd** started their season with an outing to Lakeside State Park. The group then met with a couple of our Long Island friends for a weekend at Letchworth State Park.

Afterwards the group spent a weekend down in the Finger Lakes Wine Region of Cayuga Lake at Sned Acres. The yearly weeklong outing this year took us down to the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania to the Delaware Water Gap/Pocono Mountain KOA. While there the group checked out Bushkill Falls, some of the local “sweet” shops, some of the group made a day trip into New York City and the 9/11 Museum and Memorial. The final schedule outing was done down in Olean, at Riverhurst Park Campground.

**Ken-Ton-A-Wanderers** have been busy this summer with campouts at Evangola State Park with the Fiddlers Green Chapter, members attending Campvention in Kansas, and a week in the Adirondack Mountains. While there, members enjoyed splashing in a nearby creek, hiking a variety of trails in the Park, and visiting the High Peaks. Additional travels included time spent in Lake Placid, viewing the ski jumps, various ice venues, and lots of shopping! The view out our camper window was nothing less than 3 peaks along The Branch creek. Our season will include the Western District Campout later this month, and wrap up with Columbus Day Weekend at Chapman Run State Park in Pennsylvania.



The full moon comes up as seen from our site at the Blue Ridge Falls Campsite



### New \$3 Million Center Opens in Poughkeepsie at Walkway Over the Hudson

The new \$3 million Dutchess Welcome Center is open at the eastern approach to Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park.

With entrances off both Washington Street and Orchard Place in Poughkeepsie, the center includes bathrooms, bike racks, tourist information, an outdoor patio with seating, and a dog-friendly water fountain.

A glassed-in elevator at the Walkway that offers visitors on a dramatic 212-foot, 21-story ascent has also been rebuilt, using new "energy chain" technology that was unavailable when the unit was first installed. This is expected to make service more reliable, as well as extend the season for elevator operation into the spring and fall.

More than five million people have visited the 1.28-mile Walkway – formerly an unused railroad bridge – after it opened as a state park in 2009 after decades of neglect.

With its sweeping views of the Hudson River Valley and beyond, the span has become a major tourist destination. Future planned improvements include a new pavilion and expanded gathering space at the Poughkeepsie entrance. [Learn more.](#)

Visit [Walkway.org](http://Walkway.org) for a full list of events.



The High Peaks

**Finger Lakes District** will be hosting their annual District Campout September 6-8 at the Riverside campground near Wellsville, NY. Plans include a performance of Mark Twain by Mike Randall, Pot Luck Dinner, games and activities, campfires, and Sunday morning treats.

**Hudson Valley District** had its 2019 Spring District meeting and camping on the weekend of May 31 at the Shongum Shockers Campground in Napanoch, NY. On June 1 a meeting was held. Samantha Smith applied for and received a scholarship from Hudson Valley District to attend Ulster County College. Congratulations to Sammi. HVD is happy to hear Joe and Patty Wittmeyer are our new New York State Directors. Thank you Joe and Patty for your guidance. The 2019-2020 FCRV Calendar was presented: National in Hutchinson, KS; Northeast Regional at Lycoming Fairgrounds, PA, August 1-4; and Red Rose Retiree Rally is cancelled. The 49<sup>th</sup> Retiree Rally is in Dothan, Alabama on March 24-30, 2020. Our own next meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2019 at 1 pm at Christina's in Kingston, NY. Happy Camping!

**Suffolk District** got a jump on the camping season with our spring district campout at the end of April. The deadline for registration was in April and by the middle of February and we filled the 30 campsites we had. It's going to be a good year! We ended last year with a campout that one of the campers said was the most fun he had ever had at a FCRV campout. We had candy bar bingo, a chicken cordon bleu dinner, 2 hospitalities, Saturday breakfast, and a paint night. We had rented the building and had puzzling, board games and crocheting happening all weekend. Saturday night we had a paint night which was a big success.



## THE NEXT ISSUE OF ESN....

Our next issue will be the Holiday Issue of Empire State News. It will be an opportunity for members and chapters to send Holiday greetings out to fellow members of NYSA. For a mere \$5.00 you can send your individually created artwork or picture with a brief greeting for the season. Deadline will be Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Checks, payable to "NYSA" along with your preferred artwork can be mailed to:

Pat Wittmeyer, Editor  
50 Victory Avenue  
Hamburg, NY 14075

Also in our next newsletter, we hope to have specifics about our Spring State Campout 2020. Since the past team of Kathy Collier, Mike & Carol Burns, and the Wittmeyers have run the past three campouts, we believe it's only fair that fresh ideas take over for next year. Pull together a couple of friends and either follow our format, or create one of your own. If you need help, be sure to ASK! That's how we were able to make it happen – we asked, and people said yes. Your State Directors (☺) have a database of New York members, and of those who frequently attend the State campout. Please contact Sean McHale, at [smchale@twcny.rr.com](mailto:smchale@twcny.rr.com) or Patty Wittmeyer, at [pwittmeyer175@gmail.com](mailto:pwittmeyer175@gmail.com), to let us know you'd like to help out.



# *NYSA Spring State Campout*

Many thanks to Bob Gunning for his photography!





### For National Scholarship Info

go to FCRV website: <http://www.fcrv.org/programs2/national-programs/scholarship/> completed National FCRV scholarship application deadline is April 15 (request after 12/1, prior to 4/1)

### NYSA-NCHA SCHOLARSHIPS

New York State Assoc. offers college scholarships to members or their children or legal dependents belonging to an affiliated chapter or an independent member who pays NYSA dues (\$5.00/year). FCRV membership must be at least ONE year old. Scholarships are awarded for both two and four year accredited institutions of higher learning. Students currently enrolled in college are given equal consideration with incoming freshman students. Scholarships are awarded at the state campout in May and vary in number and amount of award.

Herb & Marie Petersen, Directors

76 Gaymore Rd., Port Jefferson Sta., NY 11776-1353

Preferred method of contact is email-  
[petersen76@aol.com](mailto:petersen76@aol.com)

Deadline for the return of completed NY State Scholarship applications is May 1.

### NYSA-NCHA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST FORM

Due to being "snowbirds" -Please e-mail this info to  
[petersen76@aol.com](mailto:petersen76@aol.com)

Please email me the information packet regarding the NYSA-NCHA Scholarship.

My FCRV membership # is \_\_\_\_\_.

Join date: Month \_\_\_\_ / Year \_\_\_\_\_.

I am \_\_\_\_ a high school student.

\_\_\_\_ currently enrolled in college.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The ESN is also now available on the FCRV website in the "Newsletters" section under New York.

**The ESN will now be published 3x per year.**

**The due dates will be as follows:**

**Spring Issue – March 15 (Published in April)**

**Summer Issue – June 15 (Published in July)**

**Holiday Issue – November 15 (Published Dec.)**

Please send reports via email whenever possible.

Please try to submit articles near the due date, and Placing ESN first in the subject line of your message is always helpful.

As always, Snowbirds receiving a printed newsletter, please send change of address form to Stiegler (as well as the National Office) with the start and stop date and your temporary address.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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Printing and Mailing the ESN:

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Linda Stiegler: [stieglj2@gmail.com](mailto:stieglj2@gmail.com)

**To receive email notification of next ESN availability:**

**ROBERT WOLF**

[Nysa.esn@gmail.com](mailto:Nysa.esn@gmail.com)

## Important Dates for 2019:

May 22-25: State Campout

July 13-17: Campvention

## Inside this Issue:

- State President's Column
- Pictures from State Campout
- District Updates

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"Where Strangers Become Friends  
& Friends Become Family"

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A.S.A.P.**