



# Friends of Thacher State Park

Emma T Thacher Nature Center • 87 Nature Center Way • Voorheesville, NY 12186  
July—August 2015 • Vol. 19 No. 4

## Capital Campaign Launched in Support of Thacher Visitor Center

NYS Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey and other state and local dignitaries joined the Friends of Thacher Park on June 2 at a groundbreaking event for the Thacher Visitor Center and launch of the associated capital campaign. Situated on a trailhead for the Park's iconic Indian Ladder Trail, the new Visitor Center will serve as a focal point for the Park and a source of information about Thacher's rich history, geology and recreational opportunities.

According to Parks, New York State is providing \$3.8 million for construction of the Center, which will commence this summer, and is expected to be completed in 2016. In conjunction with that funding, a \$1 million private fund-raising Campaign has been launched for exhibits and displays, and to maintain the Center as a viable resource for Thacher's next 100 years. At the time of the groundbreaking, the Campaign has already raised \$380,000.

In the words of Commissioner Harvey in the Campaign video (*access information below*), Thacher Park was established thanks to a public-private partnership, with Emma Treadwell Thacher's gift of much of the park proper to NYS in 1914. The Campaign in support of the Visitor Center continues the proud tradition of NY citizens galvanizing in support of our Park, and will serve to instill the building with the unique local flavor and history of the Park and its surroundings.

About the Campaign, Friends of Thacher State Park President John Kilroy says, "Consistent with our mission to

support and promote the Park, the Friends of Thacher State Park embrace the Center and Capital Campaign as a next important step in the revitalization of Thacher. We welcome this new era in the evolution of the Park and increased opportunity for an even broader audience to experience the Helderberg Escarpment's beauty, geology and history."

Share your favorite Thacher memory, find out more about the Visitor Center, view the Campaign video and make a Campaign gift, by visiting <http://thacherparkcenter.org/>. Thank you for your ongoing and steadfast support!

*-by Laure-Jeanne Davignon*



*Above: Breaking ground for the new Visitor Center. Below: Friends of Thacher State Park President John Kilroy addresses the crowd at the groundbreaking ceremony.*





*Thanks  
to all of you  
who helped  
make I Love My Park Day 2015 a  
sound  
success!*



Check for updates at [www.friendsofthacherpark.org](http://www.friendsofthacherpark.org)

**Officers of the Friends Board of Trustees**

President:	John Kilroy	872-1501
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**As always, call 872-0800 or 872-1237 to verify activity times and dates.**

Please feel free to call any board member with questions or suggestions.

Many thanks to Laure-Jeanne Davignon, Betsey Miller, April Thibaudeau, Maureen Curry, Bert Schou and Nancy Engel for their contributions to this newsletter, and to Rodger Fink, webmaster.

Want to contribute? Please email me at [cgervasi@albany.edu](mailto:cgervasi@albany.edu)  
Christine Gervasi—Editor



## Friends of Thacher Park Member Form

Member benefits: Newsletter, Scheduled Events Calendar & 10% Discount at the Nature Center Gift Shop. Renewal date follows name on address label.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I'd like to become a member of the Friends of Thacher Park. Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am renewing my membership. Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- Individual \$20       Supporter \$40       Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Family \$25       Corporate \$100       Senior (62) \$5
- Student \$5       Benefactor \$100

Please make checks payable to the **Friends of Thacher Park** and send to Bonnie Schaller, 6324 Hawes Rd, Altamont, NY 12009. For more info: [bschaller@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bschaller@nycap.rr.com)

Please welcome our new Park Manager of Thacher State Park, **Maureen Curry**. Maureen began working for NYS Parks in the Niagara Region during college. She received a BA in Physical Geography and Conservation from the State University College at Buffalo, NY in 1982. After graduating, she took graduate courses in environmental studies and, in 1983-1984, was awarded an internship with the DEC-NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. In 1984, Maureen worked as a seasonal naturalist with the Schoellkopf Geological Museum, interpreting the geology and natural history of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Gorge, and was appointed there as Environmental Educator in 1985. During her time at the Museum and with the Interpretive Department, Maureen developed and opened two nature centers. In 2000, Maureen developed a new nature center at Woodlawn Beach State Park, which included developing on site and off site programming as well as exhibit content and design. Maureen was appointed Park Manager of Maintenance and Grounds at Beaver Island State Park in 2010. Maureen has been at Thacher Park since May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Maureen and her husband David have been married for 28 years; they have three children. They are loving every minute in this beautiful part of the state.

Hi friends of Thacher! My name is **April Thibaudeau** and I am the new SCA intern at John Boyd Thacher State Park. I graduated from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island in 2014 with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. While I was there I did research on the Narragansett Bay working with local fishermen, raising shellfish, and studying and restoring their natural population. Before working for the SCA, I worked in Concord, NH at an environmental chemistry laboratory as a laboratory technician. My hobbies include sports, kayaking, hiking, photography and drawing. So far I love working at the Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center! I am helping with school/camp groups, monitoring the nest boxes, trail maintenance, gardening, and more. I love meeting new people so stop by and say hello!

*Save the date for the annual Fall Festival*

***Saturday, September 26!***

*The Park is looking for vendors for the Fall Festival. Vendors who sell hand- or home-made goods are especially welcome. We are also looking for volunteers willing to help out with activities and crafts. For more information please call the Park Office at 872-1237.*

### *Friends Board Meeting Dates for 2015!*

*7:00 pm at the Thacher Nature Center. Come join us! This year's meetings will take place on July 8, September 9 and November 11 (Annual meeting)*

Friends of Thacher Park  
c/o Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center  
87 Nature Center Way  
Voorheesville, New York 12186-2601



Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Next:

**Board Meeting**

7:00 pm at the Thacher Nature Center



**School Bus  
Drive 2015**

The Bus Fund Drive for 2014-2015 has been a success. Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends we raised a total of \$4,140. This allows the Friends of Thacher to support over 16 buses for schools that cannot afford to supply their own transportation. May and June have been busy months for school visits at the Nature Center and Thacher Park. Without the support of each of you many of these trips would not be possible and far fewer children would have the opportunity to learn about the bees and their importance to our foods, watch the birds, meet the spotted salamander who lives in the Nature Center for the summer, and begin or deepen their

connection to the natural world. On behalf of the Board of the Friends and the staff at the Nature Center thank you for your help and enjoy your summer!

*- by Betsey Miller*



*Children watch pollinators at work in the garden.*



*Learning about Honeybees in the observation hive.*