

RIDGE TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy, Inc.—a 501(c)(3) Corporation



May, 2016 | Vol. VI, Issue 1

ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org

CRC Expands Board In Effort to Expand Community Reach

New Executive Team Appointed in 2016

In March 2016, the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy welcomed eight new members to the board of directors, bringing our total up to twenty-three. This increase will assist in the CRC's efforts to expand its reach into the community and improve its ability to offer more programs to park visitors.



Recording Secretary Liz O'Donnell joins new board members Toni Cudney, Gordon Panek, Tom Bystryk, and Karl Hamberger. Absent: Tom DiSimone, Marilyn Heim, Paul Maurer, Cheryl Peluso, and Dan Rizzo.

New to the Conservancy Board are Thomas Bystryk; retired Orchard Park Town Supervisor Toni Cudney; Thomas DiSimone, CPA; Karl Hamberger; Paul Maurer; Gordon Panek; and Cheryl Peluso. In addition, Marilyn Heim has returned to the board after a two-year hiatus, and new Erie County Parks Commissioner Dan Rizzo takes the seat vacated by former Commissioner Troy Schinzel, who left his county post in November 2015.

"The expanded board will enable us to offer more programs and enhance our ability to work with the county to improve the park," said new Board President Justine LeFauve. "There is no question that our board was one of

the most active and involved groups of people with whom I have had the pleasure of working. However, we were stretched very thin. Our new directors bring a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to our team. This will make it easier to expand our services and allow everyone to get more work done," added LeFauve.

In addition to an expanded board, a new executive committee has been elected. Long-time Conservancy President John C. Bailey has stepped down and is replaced by founding member and former Secretary LeFauve. John remains on the board and continues to serve in an advisory role. Founding Director Ronald Michnik has been elected Vice President, and Bill Thornton has assumed the secretarial responsibilities. Ron Smith remains in the role of CRC Treasurer.



William C. Even Assumes Advisor's Role

Conservancy Marketing Consultant Bill Even has recently been appointed as CRC Administrative Consultant, taking over the advisory role vacated by Mary Simpson in January 2016. Bill has been with the Conservancy since 2010.



Bill Even

In addition to serving as newsletter editor, web master, and the marketing arm of the organization, Bill and his family have been active in many CRC events, including organizing and setting up the outdoor movies and the annual gala.

Bill has an MBA from SUNY at Buffalo. He is the owner of The Coming Wave, LLC—Web Design and Marketing for the Small Business.



2016—Our Busiest Year Yet!

The CRC looks forward to another active year! All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Chestnut Ridge Conservancy 6th Annual Meeting

May 14 @ 11:00am - 12:30pm at the Chestnut Ridge Park MacKinnon Shelter

Erie Federation/NYSDEC Free Youth Fishing Clinic

June 25 @ 9:30am - 1:30pm at the Chestnut Ridge Park Commissioners Cabin

Firefighting Demonstration

June 25 @ 2:00pm - 3:30pm at Chestnut Ridge Park Fire Training Station

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra — Outdoor Concert

July 16 @ 7:00pm (rain date July 17) on the Chestnut Ridge Park Casino Sledding Hill

Free Outdoor Movie — Disney's The Incredibles

July 24 @ 9:00pm - 11:00pm on the Chestnut Ridge Park Sledding Hill (inside the Casino if it rains)

Free Outdoor Movie — Disney's Cars

August 19 @ 8:15pm - 10:45pm on the Chestnut Ridge Park Sledding Hill (inside the Casino if it rains)

2nd Annual Tennis Tournament

September 8 - 11 at the Chestnut Ridge Park Tennis Courts (entry fee required)

Artify The Park

September 25, various locations throughout Chestnut Ridge Park

Kite Festival

October 8, Chestnut Ridge Park

Chestnut Ridge Conservancy 5th Annual Gala

November 5 @ 6:30pm - 11:00pm, Orchard Park Country Club (Tickets available on our web site.)

Santa Land

December 10 - 11 @ 11:00am - 3:00pm, Chestnut Ridge Park Casino

Monthly Education Workshops, Topics TBA

The 3rd Saturday of every month @ 10:00am - 12:00pm
Various locations in the park

For updates and details on all Conservancy events, visit ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org

Raymond A. Fabiniak 1924-2015

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy mourns the loss of one of its founding directors and inaugural chairman, Raymond A. Fabiniak. Ray passed away August 8, 2015 at the age of 91.

Born in Buffalo, Ray served as a B-17 pilot in the 95th Bomber Group (H) in Europe during World War II. After returning from service to his country, Ray owned and ran a Jubilee Foods grocery chain in Western New York.

Ray was also a charter member of the Orchard Park Economic Development Committee, where he served as chairman.

Mr. Fabiniak was involved in numerous civic organizations, including the Buffalo Choral Arts Society, and was the driving force in efforts to restore Chestnut Ridge Park to its former glory.

Ray's friendship, as well as his leadership, dedication, devotion, advocacy, determination, humor, and support to the numerous organizations with which he was associated will be greatly missed.

As a tribute to Ray's many years of outstanding service to the organization, the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy has renamed the award presented at the annual gala the *Raymond A. Fabiniak Guardian Award*. The CRC is also installing a large swing at the park which will be identified with a commemorative memorial plaque.



Raymond A. Fabiniak



Raymond A. Fabiniak (center) with Honorary Chairpersons Joanne and Rich Kamats at the 1st Annual Chestnut Ridge Conservancy Gala in 2012. Ray was the first recipient of the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy Guardian Award.



Conservancy Board of Directors Biographies

The CRC board is comprised of twenty-three dedicated volunteers who donate their time, talent, and resources to help make our organization and our park the best they can be. We profile several of our directors in each newsletter.

Michael J. Neumeister

Mike Neumeister is a retired partner of Capital Markets Advisors LLC. With more than 45 years of diversified experience in government finance, Mike served as manager of the firm's upstate business.



Mike Neumeister

He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and completed additional coursework at several other universities.

Mike is married over 35 years to his lovely wife Janette. In 1990 they moved to Orchard Park with their two sons Ryan and Brad.

Mike was drafted to join the CRC Board in 2008 by Ray Fabiniak who, one day on the golf course, said the CRC needed someone with governmental experience.

Since then, Mike has been a driving force in the success of all of our annual galas.



Toni Marinaccio Cudney

Toni Cudney is a lifelong resident of Western New York and has lived in Orchard Park since 1981. After graduating from West Seneca High School and St. Lawrence University, Toni worked in cancer research at Roswell Park Hospital.



Toni Cudney

While she and her husband Jim raised their four children, Toni worked in various part time jobs, including Cudney's Blueberry Farm. In 1998, Toni was elected the Town Supervisor of Orchard Park and served two terms.

Since then she has volunteered at several local organizations, including the South Towns Gardeners and most recently, the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy.

Toni and her husband enjoy downhill skiing and traveling to visit their six grandchildren.

Toni brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the CRC. We are fortunate to have her as a board member.

Ed Kasperek

Outdoor enthusiast Ed Kasperek has lived in Orchard Park since 1957. He is a graduate of Orchard Park High School and Erie Community College when it was known as Erie County Technical Institute.



Ed Kasperek

Ed worked in the printing and graphics industry for 25 years, holding various positions from field service to plant general manager.

His love for the outdoors began during his involvement with BSA Troop 48 between 1958 and 1965. The troop met at the Chestnut Ridge Boy Scout Council Circle.

Ed has trained two Mt. Kilimanjaro climbing teams, both at Chestnut Ridge Park.

He is a home shop machinist, fabricator, welder, and long-time auto restoration enthusiast who is currently restoring a 1979 Porsche 911 from the ground up.

Ed and his wife Sandy have two children and three grandchildren, all of whom still live in the area.

Ed is responsible for developing and organizing the CRC's highly successful monthly Education Workshops that are held on the third Saturday of every month at the Ridge. His extensive knowledge of wilderness survival and Chestnut Ridge Park make him a valuable asset to our team. More details on these programs can be found at our website: ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org.



CRC Publications Are Online!

You can view all of the Conservancy's publications on-line. Simply open up your favorite web browser and in the address line at the top of the screen, type:

Issuu.com

and hit the **Enter** key. When the site opens, type "*Chestnut Ridge Conservancy*" in the **Search** box and hit **Enter** again. All of our publications are available for both downloading and on-line viewing.

2016 Capital Project Plans

This year, the Conservancy has assembled an ambitious list of projects that are in various stages of planning or completion. Some of the projects are long-term and all are subject to change.

- Entrance signs²
- Honor Garden maintenance³
- Casino mural protection²
- Wildflower gardens planted at park entrances³
- Baseball and softball diamond restoration at the MacKinnon Shelter¹
- Handicap playground equipment installation²
- Raymond A. Fabiniak Memorial swing³
- Hilltop binoculars²
- Dog park¹
- American Chestnut tree planting³
- Oak tree planting at the Eternal Flame⁴
- Osprey nest platform installation at the lake²

¹ Wish List

² Evaluation and Planning stages

³ In Progress

⁴ Completed

Many Thanks to ...

- John C. Bailey for his dedication to the CRC during his seven-year term as President. We are indebted to him for his unwavering dedication to, and leadership of, the Conservancy.
- Former Erie County Parks Commissioner Troy Schinzel and retired Director Mike Merritt for their service to the Conservancy board of directors. Both men brought valuable expertise and experience to our organization.
- Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Parks Commissioner Daniel Rizzo, Supervisor of Parks J. J. Thomas, and the entire Chestnut Ridge Park staff for their continued support and cooperation.
- Mary Simpson for her leadership throughout 2015. We wish her much success in her new position as Associate Director of Young Audiences of Western New York.
- The Bonadio Group for donating tax preparation services to the CRC again this year.
- Polymer Conversions Inc., Arthur's Hardware, and Arthur's Home Furnishings for sponsoring our movie nights again in 2016.
- South Towns Gardeners for donating their time and talents at the park.
- All of our volunteers, members, supporters, sponsors, and participants at our numerous events.

About the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy

Mission Statement

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy was formed to support the restoration and preservation of the rich natural, recreational, and historic resources that comprise Chestnut Ridge Park.

Chestnut Ridge Conservancy, Inc.

P. O. Box 1376

Orchard Park, NY 14127

web: ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org

email: info@ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org

Facebook: [Facebook.com/ChestnutRidgeConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/ChestnutRidgeConservancy)

Our office is located at the Casino in Chestnut Ridge Park.

Ridge Times Editor and Administrative & Marketing Consultant: William C. Even, *The Coming Wave, LLC*.

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Conservancy Board of Directors

President: Justine LeFauve

Vice President: Ronald J. Michnik

Treasurer: Ronald P. Smith

Secretary: William Thornton

Directors: John C. Bailey

Janet Y. Benjamins

Jack Bertsch

Thomas A. Bystryk

Elizabeth Cash

Toni Cudney

Thomas DiSimone

Karl Hamberger

Marilyn Heim

Ed Kasperek

Mona Lloyd

Paul Maurer

Diane Morse

Michael Neumeister

Gordon Panek

Cheryl Peluso

Daniel Rizzo

Ed Starosielec

Peter Swartwout

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The CRC Helps Local Students Give Back to the Park

When Orchard Park High School Junior Matt Chiavetta needed a project to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, he approached various local community organizations with the hopes of finding a worthwhile endeavor. Ultimately, CRC Secretary and scouting enthusiast Bill Thornton learned about Matt's quest and thought the CRC could help.

Thornton helped Matt coordinate with the county to authorize the reconstruction of the MacKinnon Shelter bleachers.

Truly a team effort, the three-week project was completed with the cooperation of the Erie County Parks Department, which supplied the lumber and hardware; CRC Director Jack Bertsch who purchased tools and supplies at cost from frequent CRC sponsor Arthur's Hardware; and Matt Chiavetta, his family, and a handful of friends who performed the work.

The project took place in July 2015, requiring an estimated 300 man-hours to complete. Matt will receive his Eagle Scout badge on June 9, 2016. Congratulations and thanks on a job well done!



Team effort: Matt Chiavetta (middle row, far right) enlisted family and friends to help repair the bleachers at the MacKinnon Shelter baseball diamond.



Every year, Orchard Park Cross Country Coach Dave Wert brings his team to Chestnut Ridge Park three times a week to get them ready for competition. Likewise, every year Coach Wert insists that the team give back to the park.

In the past, the team has spent a Sunday morning cleaning up trails. This past October, the CRC asked Coach Wert if his team would be interested in re-coating the fishing pier at the Chestnut Ridge Park Lake—he was happy to oblige.

With the county providing the stain and the CRC providing supplies and a pizza lunch, more than twenty runners and coaches worked together to apply clearcoat to the deck and railings on cool but dry Saturday morning.

We look forward to enlisting the cross country team to assist with a group project again this year.



Orchard Park Cross Country team members Mike Totaro, Emily Blake, and Ian Wojcik help put clearcoat on the fishing pier at the Chestnut Ridge Park Lake.

4th Annual Conservancy Gala Was A Great Success

The 4th Annual Chestnut Ridge Conservancy Gala was held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at the Orchard Park Country Club.

Once again, the Conservancy raised over \$30,000 at its primary fund raising event. Monies raised will be used to help pay for future Conservancy projects.

John Wabick, Vice President of West-Herr Automotive Group served as the 2015 Honorary Chairperson. This year's master of ceremonies was Keith Radford of WKBW-TV Eyewitness News. Live music was provided by the Mark Mazur Quartet.

This year the Conservancy auctioned off four beautiful paintings donated by area artists who also participated in the Meibohm Fine Arts exhibit in June and July 2015. We also sold wildflower plugs to help defray the cost of planting wildflowers along the park entrances.



John Wabick

2015 Raymond A. Fabiniak Guardian Award Presented to Justine LeFauve

Congratulations to 2015 Raymond A. Fabiniak Chestnut Ridge Conservancy Guardian Award recipient Justine LeFauve. Justine has served as Conservancy Secretary and was recently elected CRC President.

Justine has been one of the Conservancy's most active directors since joining the CRC Board in 2009 as a founding member.



Justine LeFauve accepts the Guardian Award from CRC President John Bailey

Thanks to All Those Who Supported the Gala

The Conservancy wishes to acknowledge:

- Honorary Chairman John Wabick, Vice President of West-Herr Automotive Group
- The Orchard Park Country Club for great food and a wonderful evening
- Paul Maurer (Entercom Communications) and WKBW-TV Channel 7 for helping us to publicize the event on AM Buffalo and The Weather Outside
- The entire Gala planning committee led by CRC Director Mike Neumeister
- All of the sponsors, volunteers, and attendees who helped to make this event a great success



Our 2015 Gala Sponsors

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy wishes to thank all of the very generous companies and individuals that sponsored our highly successful 2015 Gala event.

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Patrons

- John & Kathy Wabick
- Allied Mechanical/Warm & Fuzzy Home Heating & Cooling
- Abbott Ceiling & Wall, Inc.
- Baughman Magic Seal
- Jack Bertsch & Family
- BGI Interiors, Inc.
- Buffalo Office Interiors
- Lehigh Construction Group, Inc.
- Midcity Office Furniture
- NOCO
- Signworks Sportswear



If you or your organization would like to attend or be a sponsor of the 2016 Gala on November 5, 2016, please contact John Bailey at 716.662.0236 or email the CRC at info@ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org.

The 1st Annual Chestnut Ridge Summer Classic Tennis Tournament Was a Smash

The inaugural Chestnut Ridge Summer Classic Tennis Tournament held at the park in August 2015 turned out to be a big success. Thanks to persistent but polite prodding of many tennis players, tournament director Tim Sands was able to fill 153 draw slots. The good draw size made for an exciting and very competitive tournament.

Competition spanned from the 3.0 to 4.5 divisions in men's singles, women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Keeping the entry fees low, providing complimentary food and beverages for tournament players, and awarding trophies for winners and runners-up were key factors in getting so many tennis folk to participate.

Much appreciation goes to the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy for its sponsorship of the tournament and the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry for its approval and clean-up of the courts and surrounding area in preparation of the tournament, and of course Mother Nature for a perfect four-day run of ideal weather.

The 2nd Annual Summer Classic Tennis Tournament is slated for September 8-11, 2016. We are looking to build upon the success of last year's event with an even bigger draw, the same amenities as last year, and the possibility of cash prizes for winners.

We rely heavily on the generosity of our sponsors to allow us to keep the registration fees low. If you or your organization would like to be a sponsor of this great event, please contact Gordon Panek at (770) 757-9240.

Registration forms, additional tournament details, and sponsorship information will be available later this year on the CRC web site—ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org. We will also post announcements on the CRC Facebook page and through our electronic mailing list. *Thanks to Gordon Panek for contributing this article.*



Conservancy Participates in 2016 Enviro-Fair



Conservancy President Justine LeFauve and Directors Paul Maurer and Toni Cudney represent the CRC at the tenth annual Enviro-Fair at the Galleria Mall.

This year, the 10th Annual Buffalo Enviro-Fair was held at the Galleria Mall in Cheektowaga. CRC Director Paul Maurer is the founder of this annual event which brings local environmental organizations together with the public to educate them on ways to steward the planet.

Directors LeFauve and Cudney were able to meet with a number of visitors at the CRC table and discuss our mission, explain the upcoming wildflower project, and share our 2016 calendar of events.

Maurer is also the founder of Re-Tree WNY, an organization established to replace approximately 30,000 trees damaged or destroyed after the 2006 October storm.



CRC Receives ASI Grant for 2016 “Artify” Event

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy is pleased to be the recipient of a generous \$850 grant from the Art Services Initiative of Western New York. The grant will assist us in the promotion and execution of the September 25, 2016 *Artify the Park* event that will bring visitors to Chestnut Ridge Park for a full day of fun and learning.

There will be something for everyone, including crafts for the kids, an opportunity to interact with professional artists, creating your own masterpieces, and learning more about outdoor photography techniques.

Our sincere thanks to ASI for their donation to our worthy cause.



Program is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; administered by Arts Services Initiative of Western New York.

CRC Offers Monthly Education Workshops

Conservancy Director Ed Kasperek has taken the lead in developing a series of monthly education workshops offered on the third Saturday of every month at 10:00am at various locations throughout the park.

Beginning in March 2016, workshop topics have included *10 Essentials of Wilderness Travel and Safety Guidelines (and more) for Women Hikers/Walkers*. Proposed topics for future seminars include:

- Meet the New Park Rangers (May 2016)
- Fitness Hiking: training with a heart monitor
- Weight-loss Hiking: training with a heart monitor
- Map and Compass Basics
- Using a GPS
- Choosing the Right Foot Gear
- Chestnut Ridge Park History
- Hiking with Kids and Dogs
- Building a Quinzee (Emergency Snow Shelter)
- Building a Primitive Shelter (Spring/Summer/Fall)
- Snowshoeing

Seminars typically last between sixty and ninety minutes. They are free and open to the public. Advanced registration is required. More details can be found on our web site: ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org.

Meibohm Brings “The Ridge” to Canvas

Last summer’s group art exhibition, aptly entitled *The Ridge*, brought together thirty-nine original works from twenty-four area artists at Meibohm Fine Arts in East Aurora, NY. Most of the proceeds from the sale of these beautiful works were donated back to the Conservancy by gallery owner Grace Meibohm and many of the participating artists.

The Conservancy is grateful to everyone involved for the generous donation of \$5,233 made to the CRC’s general fund from the sale of the works displayed at the exhibit.



Old stone furnace located on the Newton Road side of the park. Not much is known about the history of this structure.

Questions About the Park?

While the Conservancy is always happy to address your questions about the park, very often the best place to go for answers is the **Erie County Parks Department**.

If you ...

- have questions about park trails, landmarks, or features
- need to reserve a shelter for a private affair
- want to share your ideas or concerns about the park itself ...

You can contact the Erie County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department at **(716) 858-8355**, or visit the Erie County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry website at **www2.Erie.gov/parks**



Doing Our Part to Beautify Chestnut Ridge Park

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy is doing its part to spruce up the park this Spring.

Members of the South Towns Gardeners spent a Friday morning in April cleaning out and replanting the Blue Star Memorial Honor Garden surrounding the flag pole next to the Casino.



South Towns Gardeners Liz Cash, Justine LeFauve, Chet Okonczak, Barb Clayton, and Toni Cudney. Liz, Justine, and Toni also serve on the CRC Board of Directors.



Director Cudney and her husband Jim were responsible for coordinating the planting of ten oak trees in the Eternal Flame parking lot at the southern end of the park.

The trees were needed to replace a number of maple trees that had been planted several years ago but failed to thrive. George Schichtel, owner of Schichtel's Nursery in Springville, NY and good friend of the Conservancy, donated the juvenile trees, his flatbed truck, and a team of workers to deliver and unload them.



One of ten oak trees being deposited in a hole in the Eternal Flame parking lot.

Once the trees were on the ground, volunteers removed the burlap bags, untangled the branches, and covered the roots with top soil and mulch.



Our dedicated team of volunteers untangle branches of one of the juvenile oak trees.

Sincere thanks to Jim Cudney, Dick Maul, and Andy Slotman and his sons Bowen and Drew for removing the maples, digging the holes, and planting the new oak trees.

We also wish to thank the four young Elders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Addison Daus, Joshua Fielding, Aapo Ahola, and Kevin Self, who reached out to the Conservancy asking for ways to provide community service. Each donated several hours of their time assisting us in planting the trees.



CRC Receives Chamber Beautification Award



CRC Directors Liz Cash, Ron Michnik, John Bailey, and Justine LeFauve are joined by Orchard Park Town Supervisor Pat Keem (third from left), Chamber Associate Director Colleen Baker (third from right) and Beautification Award Selection Committee Chairman Joe Wales (far right).

The Conservancy thanks to the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce for selecting us as the recipient of the September 2015 Business Beautification Award.

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Scheduled to Return to Chestnut Ridge Park This Summer

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy is pleased to announce the return of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra to the park on Saturday, July 16, 2016 at 7:00pm. In the event of rain, the concert will take place on Sunday, July 17.

The Conservancy has been in negotiations with the BPO for months, hoping to capture the same excitement and enthusiasm generated at the last concert in the park back in July of 2011. Admission is free. All are welcome.



The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra last performed at the Ridge in 2011.

The Conservancy Evaluates the Viability of an Osprey Nest Platform at the Park Lake

CRC Administrative Consultant Bill Even and several members of the board are examining the possibility of installing an osprey nesting platform in the vicinity of the park lake located next to the Commissioners Cabin.

At one point in the 1950s and 1960s, osprey populations had declined dramatically due to the use of the insecticide DDT. After the chemical was banned nationally in 1974, osprey numbers rebounded. However, during their absence, many of their natural nesting spaces had been destroyed, making it difficult for osprey to reproduce. Seeking alternatives, osprey often resort to building nests on hazardous structures like utility poles.

In an effort to help ospreys find safer nesting spaces, government agencies and private entities have been erecting poles and other structures equipped with platforms to help the birds establish a safe, secure location for raising their young.

“The cost of installing a platform is surprisingly affordable. The biggest expense is the installation of the pole

itself. We are looking for local companies that would be willing to donate a pole and assist in mounting it,” said Even.

Biologists from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation have been consulting with us to help estimate the likelihood that a nesting pair would find the platform, and if they do, would there be a sufficient supply of fish in or around the park to sustain a family of osprey.



Conservancy Members Participate in Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker Dedication Ceremony

On July 29, 2015, the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy participated in the dedication ceremony for the Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker that now graces the honor garden adjacent to the Casino.

South Towns Gardener Carol Jo Pope was instrumental in acquiring the marker and arranging the ceremony attended by many local dignitaries and veterans.

The Blue Star Memorial Program honors all men and women that serve in the United States Armed Services. This program began with the planting of 8,000 Dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs adopted this program and began a Blue Star Highway system that covers thousands of miles across the United States. By-Way markers were later added to the program for use in national cemeteries, parks, veterans' facilities, and gardens.

More information on the program can be found at GardenClub.org



The Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker resides in the Chestnut Ridge Honor Garden



CHESTNUT RIDGE *Conservancy*

In an effort to assist the County of Erie in restoring and maintaining Chestnut Ridge Park in the midst of budget cuts and rising expenses, a dedicated group of concerned citizens has come together to form the ***Chestnut Ridge Conservancy***.

This not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization was established to support the restoration and preservation of the rich natural, recreational, and historic resources that comprise our own Chestnut Ridge Park.

We are working with the Erie County Parks Department to:

- Define projects that need to be completed
- Raise funds through the generosity of corporations, community groups, and citizens
- Sponsor events to raise awareness and encourage county residents to take advantage of the park's facilities and scenery

We need your help to carry out our mission!

Please consider donating to our worthy cause. Simply complete the form below and include it with your check made out to ...

Chestnut Ridge Conservancy

P. O. Box 1376
Orchard Park, NY 14127

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____

ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Please add me to your email mailing list.

Email: info@ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org

Web: ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org

Facebook: [Facebook.com/ChestnutRidgeConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/ChestnutRidgeConservancy)

Will You Help Us Revitalize Chestnut Ridge Park?

The **Chestnut Ridge Conservancy** is working to restore our local treasure. Your assistance is very important! Please select a membership level and return this slip with a check for your tax-deductible contribution made payable to ***Chestnut Ridge Conservancy***.

Thank you for your support!

Join on-line at:

ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org/membership

Annual Membership Levels:

Chestnut Family Membership	\$100
Family Membership	\$50
Individual	\$30
Senior Membership (55 & up)	\$25
Community Groups	\$125
Conservationist	\$500
Preservationist	\$2,500
Park Benefactor	\$5,000

I Would Like to Volunteer!

I am interested in helping with:

- ☐ Fund Raising
- ☐ Events Planning
- ☐ Event Setup, Cleanup, and Activities
- ☐ Administrative Tasks





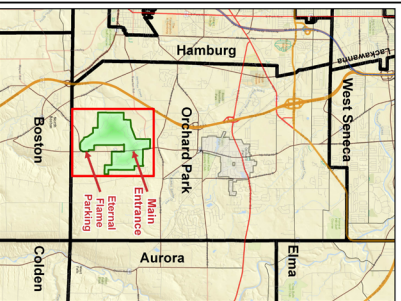
Erie County Department of
Parks, Recreation, and Forestry



Chestnut Ridge Park

Please Follow All Park Rules

- Park Hours:
 - Summer : 7 AM - 9 PM (Memorial Day- Labor Day)
 - Winter : 7 AM - Dusk
- Campfires are prohibited
- Cutting or destroying of any trees, plant life, or disturbance of wildlife is prohibited
- Leash dogs at all times
- Stay on marked trails
- Use Carry-in/ Carry-out Principle on trails
- Alcohol by permit only
- No glass containers allowed
- Speed limit on Park roads: 15 MPH



Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive

Daniel Rizzo
Commissioner of Parks



May 2015



Scan this QR Code for
more information on
Chestnut Ridge Park

For Emergencies: Call 911
All other County Park
Department questions:
Please Call: 716 - 858 - 7037

Mapping Provided by the
Erie County Office of Geographic Information Services

Hiking Trails	One-Way Distance
Boy Scout Trail	2.3 miles
Eternal Flame Trail	0.56 miles
Orienteering Trail	2.6 miles
Reservoir Trail	0.65 miles
Seufert Trail	0.23 miles
Snowmobile Trail	0.34 miles
Ward Hill Trail	0.9 miles
Ward Hill Walkway	1.15 miles
XCSki Inner Loop	0.58 miles
XCSki Outer Loop	0.86 miles

● EASY- Well-maintained or paved, shorter trails intended for casual walking
■ MODERATE- Longer trails with some grade/ obstructions intended for hiking
◆ CHALLENGING- Long, more primitive trails, with steep grades or obstructions, intended for hardy experienced hikers

