



Black Creek News

The ECC recently received a Greenway Grant to improve access to the Black Creek. You'll soon see some work done on the side of Route 299 as we create a new parking area and improve the boat launch. Improvements include signage for parking and information, a place to unload canoes and kayaks, and a smooth entryway into the water.

We hope that many people will continue to enjoy their voyages on the stunning Black Creek and encourage new folks to borrow or rent a canoe or kayak and get out there! It's primarily flat water – perfect for beginners, and the scenery is spectacular.



Every spring, volunteers from the ECC and the Adirondack Mountain Club join forces to clean up both the Northern and Southern stretches of the Black Creek Water Trail. We cut through fallen trees and branches to clear the way for paddlers, and remove any trash. Many thanks to our volunteers from May 2013!

Hiking, Biking, & Paddling, OH MY

There are so many opportunities for outdoor recreation in Lloyd! Our newest includes a series of hiking and mountain biking trails on Illinois Mountain. The Scenic Hudson Trails start at Berean Park, to the left of the reservoir (from the entrance). Multi-use trails were created by the hard work of the Fats in the Cats Mountain Bicycle club and Scenic Hudson volunteers, under the direction and unflagging effort of Carley Kiernan (Scenic Hudson) and Tim Kleeger (Fats in the Cats). Club members Tim Kleeger, Jamie Myers and Chris Wineberry have received the 2013 ECC award for outstanding environmental service on behalf of the many volunteers who have worked on these trails. Kleeger estimates 150 hours of labor per mile went into their creation.

The trail starts out with a beginners loop, and continues with a more strenuous series of trails that meander up the side of the mountain. There are 3.6 miles



completed and a fourth trail (approx.. 70% complete) will add an additional 3 miles. A loop can be hiked by walking back down an access road, which ends at the north side of the reservoir. There's a map on the Town of Lloyd website. The entire area is part of the watershed that protects the town reservoir and its water quality. Cooperation of the town of Lloyd and Scenic Hudson could result in the eventual goal of 10 miles of completed trails with a view at the top.

There are also new hiking opportunities at the Franny Reese State Park which opened in 2009. Trailheads are at both the end of Haviland Rd., and the sharp corner at Macks Lane. Traverse the bluffs on multiple trails that lead to views of the Hudson River. One gorgeous overlook is right over the Mid-Hudson Bridge. These trails connect to the Walkway Over the Hudson through Johnson-lorio Park.

Or try canoeing or kayaking - the Black Creek is wonderful for an easy paddle. Put-in at Route 299 (where you'll see some construction early this year, see side panel), and paddle north or south. The northern reach goes almost all the way to Chodikey Lake. The southern reach winds it's way through some beautiful wetlands to New Paltz Rd. Go early in the morning to see many species of birds and wildlife. There's another put-in on the east side of Chodikey Lake. Heading

north, you'll cross beaver dams to reach cascading waterfalls. While the Black Creek flows into the Hudson River in Esopus, the creek is not navigable throughout.

However you choose to enjoy Lloyd's natural beauty and recreation, please remember to stay on marked trails, keep dogs on leashes, carry out your garbage, and preserve these trails for future hikers, bikers and paddlers!

"You can enjoy mountain trails similar to the Gunks within a very short drive"

Trash Talk

Did you know that a NYS law was passed in 2010 making it easy for consumers to recycle electronics? The Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act requires manufacturers to provide "free and convenient" recycling of electronic waste. That means old computers, monitors, TVs, phones, VCRs (remember those?), stereos, ipods, etc can be taken to a number of places including electronics retailers (Best Buy, Radio Shack, etc.), or a county collection site such as the Kingston or New Paltz transfer stations for the Ulster County Regional Resource Recovery Agency. Our own local transfer station, located conveniently on Lily Lake Rd. may soon start to charge a fee for monitors and televisions

(anything with a cathode ray tube CRT). Though it has not yet happened as of the printing of this newsletter, the contractor that takes care of Lloyd's electronics will soon charge the town a fee.

The Lloyd transfer station accepts not only electronics, but other household recyclable waste from plastics to newspaper to yard waste and car batteries. Yearly permit for use of the facility is \$20. See their website for details. The Ulster Resource Recovery station will have a household hazardous waste day in April. They will accept paints, pesticides and other chemicals.

Have you heard of Freecycle? It's a way to give



away used, but still useable goods or get goods that people don't need for free. If you have a tube TV to get rid of due to an upgrade, but the old one still works, try Freecycle before recycling it. Someone may be glad to have it! Go to www.freecycle.org to join the Poughkeepsie region group. Membership is free. The goal of this grassroots group is to keep useable materials out of landfills.

Where ecology meets human health

Tick-borne diseases and how they are impacted by lack of open space planning.

Ulster County now has one of the highest rates of Lyme disease in the state of New York – surpassing Dutchess County in number of cases per capita. Lyme is one of several tick-borne diseases that is carried by the black-legged tick and passed to humans through a bite. Recent studies have shown that forest fragmentation can increase risk of getting Lyme disease. Smaller forest patches have more white-footed mice



(common hosts for ticks, and excellent reservoirs for the lyme disease bacteria) and less biodiversity of other species (many that are considered a poor reservoir for the bacteria). These smaller patches also have more infected ticks than larger forest patches which also have mice, but include many other host species. In this way, fragmentation of habitat can influence human health risk. For more information on Lyme disease, call the CDC hotline – 1(800) CDC-INFO

We'd like to hear from you!

Questions to bring to the ECC.

How can I help the local environment?

Can I get any help from a Town government agency if a neighbor is causing damage to my property?

What are good local plants to have on my property and where can I find them?

What events can my children and I attend to learn more about nature in Lloyd?

If I worry about something causing harm to the environment, whom do I contact?

What's the best way to prevent unwanted wildlife from invading my property?

How do I best dispose of hazardous or polluting trash?

How is climate change affecting our area?

How much consideration is fracking receiving in our area?

What birds can I watch locally in different seasons?

In person, by phone, by email or by facebook, we welcome your questions, answers, stories, and photos!

Remember: Most parks are open dawn to dusk