

Central New York Conservancy

# BORROWED VIEWS

Preserving and restoring the Olmsted  
green spaces in the Mohawk Valley

## Saving the Creek and Feeding the Birds

**L**aughter ... and then an enormous SPLASH! More giggles, whoops and shouts. Then ... another ginormous SPLASH as bodies hit the water.

When you visit E.T. Proctor Park in late spring and throughout the summer, saunter down to Starch Factory Creek, located in the northeast section of the Park, just across the road and several yards down from the big stonework planter that sits below the row of flowering crabapple trees and the Lily Pond.

That's where the action is, and we're not just talking wildlife. We're talking kids. Kids of all sizes – and ages – who like to swim and cannonball into the Creek's cool water.

Starch Factory Creek is fast becoming a major attraction in the Park. And, in the last couple of years, the Central New York Conservancy and

the City of Utica have made a number of positive alterations to the area.

There's a Butterfly Garden with paths to walk, lots of wild flowers and tall grasses that make a perfect place to hide and large boulders to sit on and soak up the sun. American Elms have been planted along the Creek, too. And, perhaps best of all, the sloping terrain down to the Creek has been restored and replanted.

Before restoration, the Creek's slope was a jumble of exotic shrubs, mostly *rosa multiflora* (Japanese rose) and Japanese knotweed. All of those exotics have been eliminated.

The slope was replanted using Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.'s 1914 planting plan as a guide. Winterberry, elderberry, red twigged dogwood and sweet pepper bush now grow along the bank. These are all hardy plants that do well in



**Grow with the Flow:** New plantings along the Starch Factory Creek.

**Monty Python fans** will recognize these immediately – they're elderberries and they now grow along the Starch Factory Creek in E.T. Proctor Park.



**A Hearty Winter Breakfast:** Although the winterberry plants along Starch Factory Creek aren't quite this mature, they will one day look like this perhaps.

wet or dry conditions.

These plants also support wildlife that is native to the Park, especially birds. According to the Conservancy's landscape design consultant, Katechen Cardamone, "Red twigged dogwood provides high lipid, fatty fruit for migratory birds. Winterberry retains its fruit into the winter and will sustain over-wintering birds."

Like most municipal parks, E.T. Proctor Park has endured its share of environmental and cultural assaults on its original design. "Exotic invasive plants, the stress associated with public use – and sometimes – misuse and scarce resources for the repair and restoration of park structures have taken their toll," said Cardamone.

*Continued on page 3...*

## Park's Butterfly Garden Inspires a Song

**Q**uick – think of a song inspired by a place! Oh, sure. There are songs about leaving your heart in San Francisco and loving Paris in the summer when it sizzles. There's even a tune or two about what happens under the Boardwalk.

But, there's a song that was inspired by Utica's very own F.T. Proctor Park – it's Butterfly Garden, to be exact.

Barneveld resident Roger Smith spends a great deal of time among Utica's parks and on the Parkway. He's been photographing F.T. Proctor Park since 2005 for the Conservancy's calendar and newsletter.

But, the parks aren't just a photo op for Smith. He truly enjoys walking the Park's paths, talking to the dog walkers, bikers, ball players and stroller-pushers. He's especially fond of the Butterfly Garden, no matter what the season.

Smith is also an inveterate journal-keeper and one day, his visit to the Butterfly Garden resulted in a set of lyrics, which he set to a tune. The resulting song, *Mariposa Garden*, appears on Smith's newly recorded CD entitled "blues."

He performed *Mariposa Garden* at a CD-release party at the Tramontane Café on Lincoln Ave, in late October. If you're a musician, the guitar chords are D/A7/C9/D and it's played in 3/4 time:

We went to the garden  
Butterflies were gliding in the day  
We sat in the sun, watching and holding hands  
Here it is, a place for making life's plans –  
*Bring your love, bring your love...*

There's no being angry  
In mariposa garden  
At noonday, when butterflies flex their wings  
Or in evening when crickets, the crickets are chirping  
*Bring your love, bring your love...*

We went to the garden  
But the butterflies had gone for the day  
So we sat on the wall and kissed like a couple of school kids  
We planned a life bigger than the Pyramids  
*We brought our love, we brought our love and the garden did call.*

Music and lyrics ©Roger B. Smith 2011



**Mariposa Garden:** And here's the garden's namesake!



**Everything's Comin' Up Rudbeckia!** The Butterfly Garden shows off its blooms.



**Strolling Down Butterfly Lane:** The paths that wind through the Butterfly garden lead visitors from one patch of color to another.



## Saving the Creek...

*continued from page 1*

“Each season, the Conservancy fulfills its mission to promote healthy, sustainable, public green spaces by working a plan that marries the interests of historic intent with the health and future of the landscape,” Cardamone explained.

Next summer, there will be grins, giggles, and giant water splashes cohabitating nicely with feasting birds and butterflies along Starch Factory Creek. Don’t forget to bring your camera!

## Making the Parkway even more memorable

**W**ith 8 of its 14 monuments “adopted”, the 2011 season on the Memorial Parkway offered a “wow-some” sight from May through the first week of November.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of several Conservancy benefactors who have underwritten the planting and re-design of many of the Parkway monument flower beds, by Memorial Day 2011, Central New York Conservancy and City of Utica workers and volunteers had the lengthy boulevard looking positively stunning from Genesee Street to Culver Avenue.

Several monuments received “special treatment” as a result of sponsorship. The **World War II/Korean War** monument (sponsored by Eugene and Loretta Romano) was enhanced with the removal of several sections of juniper.

The monument to **Christopher Columbus** (sponsored by Carin Mei) was planted with new flowering bulbs and perennials

A new design was introduced at the feet of **General Pulaski** (Christopher and Virginia Kelly are its underwriters). Shrubs were removed and a new design was introduced that features numerous spring bulbs and perennials. The City of Utica provided the shrubs and trees and the Conservancy purchased the perennials that will bloom for years to come. Conservancy intern Mike Cowley worked with landscape design consultant Katechen Cardamone and gardeners Cheryl and Peter Youngman to plant, grade, prune, weed, mulch and provide ongoing seasonal care to Pulaski and other Parkway monuments..

One of the monument beds required some intensive care because it became “drought stressed” before the Conservancy crew could get it properly watered. The bedding plants and flowers that surround the monument to **Vice President Sherman** (underwritten by Ron and Cecelia Gouse) nearly succumbed to the dry conditions and summer warmth. “There’s always a problem with heat from the sidewalk on this section of

the Parkway,” noted Cardamone. The monument is sited at the corner of Burrstone Road and Genesee Street, where four lanes of traffic and several turning lanes subject plants and flowers to exhaust from cars and busses in addition to summer temperatures and dry conditions.

Several other sponsored monuments continued to receive updates and ongoing maintenance to their plantings:

Gen. Baron von Steuben (underwritten by Harold T. Clark/Adirondack Bank)

- **The Swan Fountain** (sponsored by William F. Locke)
- **The Vietnam Memorial** (adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Short)
- **The 9/11 Monument** (underwritten by Drs. Frank Dubeck and Marybeth McCall)

There are still unique opportunities remaining for monument sponsorship. What could be a better gift for your family or friends than contributing to the continuing care of the gorgeous plants and flowers that adorn the monuments along Utica’s historic Memorial Parkway. *To find out more about underwriting the design and planting of a monument, please contact William F. Locke, Conservancy President, at 315-724-4186.*



One of the newly planted and designed beds created along the Memorial Parkway this Spring.



**The Very Image of a General:** The monument to Gen. Baron von Steuben received a “lift” with new plants and flowers.

## A Season in Pictures

If you didn't have the opportunity to visit Utica's E.T. Proctor Park or the Memorial Parkway this spring and summer, here's what you missed. It's enough to make you plan NOT to miss it during the spring and summer of 2012!



**The Conservancy's 2011 on-site crew:** (clockwise from upper right): Summer intern Mike Cowley, landscape design consultant Katechen Cardamone and gardeners Cheryl and Peter Youngman discuss the day's plan of attack.



**Before:** Tall grass and overgrown weeds obscure the beauty of the stone work of what will soon be transformed...



**Heere's Mikey!** Mike Cowley served as the Conservancy's summer intern for 2011.



**After:** ...into a well tended small garden, thanks to the ministrations of a local garden club that "adopted" the stone structure.





**Woman at Work:** Cheryl Youngman brought her expertise with growing things to E.T. Proctor Park during Summer 2011 where she and her husband, Peter, worked with Katechen Cardamone to keep the Parks and Parkway groomed and beautifully maintained.

Peter Youngman trims and prunes judiciously near the entrance to E.T. Proctor Park.



A Park visitor steps a little closer to admire the delicate growth.

CNY Conservancy  
**BORROWED  
VIEWS**

“Borrowed views” is a phrase coined by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. to describe views of features beyond the original landscape.

Borrowed Views masthead image courtesy of the Oneida County Historical Society photographic collection.



Published by  
The Central New York Conservancy  
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## Continuing the Conservancy's Legacy

### A great, big, bloomin' thank you!

Each season since its inception, the Central New York Conservancy has received support from a number of individuals, garden clubs, companies and foundations who consider its work a significant priority deserving of support. Nearly \$30,000 in gifts was received by the Conservancy from new and long-time contributors. Every gift is important, for your donations directly support the restoration and maintenance projects that keep Utica's Parks and Parkway System in peak condition all year long.

### Gifts (January 2010 –October 2011)

#### **PARKS PROTECTOR**

**(\$1,000 & above)**

Bank of Utica/Mr. Tom Sinnott  
Hon. & Mrs. Richard J. Cardamone  
(2010 & 2011)  
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## New Sign in F.T. Proctor Park

Mrs. Eleanor Scheidelman (2010  
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Mrs. Linda E. Thomas  
Mr. Robert A. Visalli  
Ms. Rose White

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In honor of Earth Day (special  
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*In honor of Eunice Speck*  
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*In honor of Betty Ann Canfield*  
Dr. & Mrs. Theodore C. Max  
*In honor of Katecben  
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Sauquoit Valley Garden Club  
*In honor of President Lucille  
Roser*

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Chubb Bailly & Ann D. Lowery  
*In memory of Lulie Munson  
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*In memory of Sam Cavo*  
Ms. Nancy Cooper  
*In memory of Dr. Burton Cooper*  
Ms. Marta D. Donohue  
*In memory of Dr. L. Anton &  
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*Vietnam War Monument*

### GIFTS IN-KIND

Cathedral Corporation  
*Printing & Mailing for Year-End  
Appeal*  
Harold T. Clark/Adirondack Bank  
*Seasonal use of truck for  
work in the Parks and on the  
Parkway*  
Roger B. Smith  
*Photography*  
Susan D. Smith  
*Office Printer*



**Sign Language:** City of Utica workers get ready to install the new sign in F.T. Proctor Park.



**Every Picture Tells a Story:** The newly placed sign in F.T. Proctor Park.



**Both Sides Now:** The new sign in F.T. Proctor Park includes a map to help visitors find specific features.

8

Central New York Conservancy  
**BORROWED  
VIEWS**

## Please help the CNY Conservancy preserve & protect Utica's Olmsted parks

**Y**ou can help the Central New York Conservancy sustain its ability to preserve, restore and maintain the beauty and elegance of the Utica Parks System.

There are two straightforward and simple ways you may use to support the Conservancy:

- Consider including the Central New York Conservancy in your will or bequest, which will enable you to provide for both your family and loved ones and the Conservancy;
- If you have an IRA, you still have time to make a direct transfer to the Central New York Conservancy without having to count the transfer as income for federal income tax purposes.

### Making a bequest

Everyone needs a will – it's not just for people who have tangible assets or who are wealthy. Anyone can and should consider making a will. A bequest allows you to retain ownership and control of your assets and income until they are no longer needed by you or your spouse or partner.

Bequests are also revocable, which ensures that you may change your mind and be flexible about your estate plans in the event of a medical emergency or other, major unanticipated expense.

The Central New York Conservancy was created thanks to a visionary and very generous individual who named the Conservancy in her will. Bequests continue to be important as the Conservancy seeks sustainable funding for its current and future endeavors.

### Transferring assets from an IRA

The IRA Charitable Rollover will expire on December 31, 2011. Since its inception in 2006 as part of the Pension Protection Act, the IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals age 70-1/2 and older to make direct transfers up to \$100,000 per year to community benefit organizations without having to declare the transfers as income for federal income tax purposes.

Transfers may be made directly from an IRA to the Central New York Conservancy. If you have assets in another type of retirement fund, you must first roll those funds into an IRA and then direct the IRA provider to transfer the funds directly to the Conservancy.

You may request that the Conservancy use your IRA transfer to support its most important priorities, or you may specify a particular purpose, such as the planting of trees, purchase of plants and bulbs, even the upkeep of Parkway monuments.

Although you may not receive an income tax charitable deduction for your gift, you will know that your contribution will have very tangible, positive results that everyone in the community may enjoy for years to come.

### The power of a bequest funded with an IRA

You may also consider funding your bequest with an IRA to obtain a tax advantage. Because an IRA is subject to income tax and, depending on the size of your estate, to estate tax as well, the combined total of these taxes on an IRA may exceed 75 percent. But, you can avoid both of these taxes with the gifting of an IRA to a charity like the Central New York Conservancy at death.

Bequests and direct transfers of IRA assets can help the Conservancy increase its ability to preserve, protect, and maintain the beauty of Utica's Parks System.

Want to know more about making a bequest or other type of legacy gift to the Central New York Conservancy? Please contact President William F. Locke at 315-724-4186 or Treasurer Gordon M. Hayes, Jr. at 315-853-6101.

## Join the Central New York Conservancy

\_\_\_ \$1,000 PARKS PROTECTOR    \_\_\_ \$ 125 SUSTAINER  
\_\_\_ \$ 500 CONSERVATOR        \_\_\_ \$ 100 LANDSCAPER  
\_\_\_ \$ 250 RESTORER            \_\_\_ \$ 50 AFFILIATE

\_\_\_ I am enclosing a check for my gift.

\_\_\_ I prefer to make my gift using    \_\_\_ VISA    \_\_\_ MASTERCARD

Name (as it appears on the card you are using): \_\_\_\_\_

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### PLEDGES:

Two-year pledges of \$500, \$1,000 or more are appreciated. If you wish to make a two-year pledge, please indicate the amount below.

\_\_\_ \$1,500    \_\_\_ \$1,000    \_\_\_ \$500    \$ \_\_\_ OTHER AMOUNT  
I have enclosed the first installment of my two-year pledge. Please send a reminder  
\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

### BEQUESTS & OTHER PLANNED GIFTS:

I would like to know more about how I may name the Central New York Conservancy as the beneficiary of a bequest or other planned gift:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to call: \_\_\_ Daytime \_\_\_ Evening

### TRIBUTE GIFTS:

My gift is (please check appropriate item): \_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_ In honor of

Name of individual in whose name you make this gift:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the following individuals/family member of my gift:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us how you would like your name to appear for recognition and how we may contact you:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your gift & make your check payable to:

The Central New York Conservancy  
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Thank you for your thoughtful contribution!