



Annual Meeting 2024

Save the Date:

Attention members: Please mark Thursday, May 16th on your calendars for our **Annual Member's Meeting**.

On May 16th we will be conducting the meeting at the Mansion beginning at 5:30 pm.

Light refreshments will be served.

Look for official meeting notice and proxy information in the mail mid-April.

ATTENTION MEMBERS: Under the By-Laws of Friends of Knox Farm State Park, Inc., the Governance Committee of the Board of Directors is charged with the responsibility of recommending to the Board candidates for election to the Board at the May Annual Membership Meeting. Any member who wishes to be considered by the Committee for nomination, or who wishes to recommend a person to the Committee for consideration, should forward the name and resume of the prospective candidate to Kathleen York, the Friends' Executive Director, at the following address: P. O. Box 601, East Aurora, New York 14052 or at admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org.

Information should be submitted by April 5th, 2023.

From the President

It looks like spring is here! The Friends of Knox Farm State Park is looking forward to a busy 2024. A big thank you to all new members and those who have renewed, as our membership is up from this time last year. Your support allows us to continue supporting the activities and projects at Knox Farm. Another thanks to our volunteers, board members and committee members who continue to donate their time and effort helping the Friends in preserving and promoting the unique character and historic beauty of Knox Farm State Park. We can't do it without you. Our executive director, Kathleen York, will be sharing the abundance of activities and projects that were completed or are in the works at the park. She's involved in them all! Thanks Kathleen.

And again, thank you for your continued support of the Friends of Knox Farm State Park, Inc.

DAVE
SCHIFFERLE
President

Executive Director

KATHLEEN YORK

Board of Directors

DAVE SCHIFFERLE

President

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BOB HOOVER

LINDA LAMANNA

JACOB MERRILL

DAVE NORTON

ROBIN SHANAHAN

KAREN SWIFT JONES

JODY VALDES



I want to begin my report this spring by thanking everyone who has made the April 8th EAclipse event possible. In less than a week we will be hosting approximately 3,000 people in and around the stables area to celebrate this incredible astronomical phenomenon. Our all-volunteer EAclipse committee has spent hundreds of hours over the past year to create an event that is family friendly, educational, fun, and just plain inspiring. Parks & Trails New York and Erie County have supplied grants to help with production costs. Our community and business sponsors have stepped up to create opportunities for programming, safety measures, accessibility, and entertainment. Jennifer Brazill; producer of Borderland Arts & Music Festival, has used her expertise in large-scale events at Knox to manage all our production details. And finally, over 200 community members, scientists, organizations and volunteers are donating their time and resources to bring our attendees unforgettable programming. Wherever you plan on being on April 8th, we hope you are able to take some time to (safely!) view the total solar eclipse.

KATHLEEN YORK
Executive Director
admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org

Development Updates:

Friends of Knox Farm - Loggia Repairs

Interior view;
doorway connecting to hallway
located in lower left corner



Details of damage to joists and
supporting scaffolding.

Loggia Repairs

Thanks to a 2023 Parks & Trails Partnership Grant, we have begun repairs to the loggia (sunroom) at the Mansion! This room sustained major water damage over ten years ago and has been closed off since. With funding from Erie County and Parks & Trails, we are able to re-create a usable and beautiful addition to weddings and events at the Mansion. Work began in Mid March and we hope to have structural repairs done by June. Finish work will follow, and should be completed over the summer.



The Stone Wall

In December of 2023 The Friends of Knox Farm State Park received the exciting news that County Legislator, James Malczewski secured \$500,000 from Erie County to begin repair work on the iconic stone wall bordering the park on Buffalo Rd. NYS Parks have been busy throughout January and February clearing brush and small trees from the work area, as well as conducting engineering studies to determine the best approach to this project. Thank you Erie County and NYS Parks for your commitment to our stone wall!

However you enjoy the park, please enjoy it often. Happy Spring and thank you for being a Friend!



The Stables at Knox: Improvement updates:

Before

After!



New floors in the stables? Yes!

In March of 2024 we completed a 2 1/2 year process to replace the flooring throughout the center walkway and entrance to the stables. This process was in partnership with NYS Parks and the Office of Historic Preservation to determine the best materials and process to create a safe and lasting walkway at the stables. The original cork bricks were salvaged and may be used to patch stall flooring; (a “next year project”). Thank you to Erie County for helping to fund this important improvement to the stables. We can’t wait for you to see this!

More window replacements? YES!!

Last year The Friends were able to replace all the stall windows along the front of the building. These windows were custom made by Jack Thiesen, <https://customfurnitureandfab.com>. They were then primed, painted, glazed and custom fitted by our volunteers! This year we are continuing this work by replacing the double hung windows on the ground floor along the two bays. These projects are made possible through stables donations, your membership and hours of volunteer efforts!





I Love My Park Day 2024

If you have ever participated in our annual "I Love My Park Day", you will know that in a few short hours, a dedicated group of volunteers can make a huge difference at the park. Once again this year we will be planting trees, weeding away invasive species, and helping the Garden Club mulch and rake around the beautiful gardens surrounding the mansion. Join us on May 4th between 9am-noon. Registration is a must, and opens soon!

<https://www.ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day/find-event>



Opportunities to enjoy Knox all summer long:

Mark your calendar for these great public events that support the Park and The Friends:
(These events are sponsored and managed independently)



The Borderland Music + Arts Festival celebrates the rich history and renaissance of the region with a three-day music and cultural festival set in one of the most scenic and storied grounds in all of New York State, Knox Farm State Park.



Tickets on sale now:
Festival dates: September 15th-17th
<https://borderlandfestival.com/>

Experience Chamber Music the way it was meant to be experienced.:



invites you to attend a special evening featuring musicians from the 2024 Roycroft Chamber Music Festival

Thursday, May 9th, 7pm

The Mansion at Knox Farm

\$60.00 per person

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served

Please detach and mail your ticket order form with credit card info, or a check or money order to: Roycroft Chamber Music Festival, P.O. Box 281, East Aurora, NY 14052

Name: _____ Number attending _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT Visa MC Disc. Amex Total Price _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____



An Evening with the
Roycroft Chamber Music Festival Musicians



Proceeds to benefit Roycroft Chamber Music Festival.

For more information contact, mbuyer@gmail.com

The amount of the payment that is deductible for federal income tax purposes is \$30.00

www.roycroftchambermusic.org



42 North Presents:

JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT IN JULY FOR MUSIC, CRAFT BEER, FOOD, AND FUN AT KNOX FARM STATE PARK. SUNSET AT THE STABLES, PRESENTED BY BANK ON BUFFALO, IS A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT THAT BRING SOME OF THE REGION'S BEST MUSIC DOWN TO THE FARM!

A SUNSET AT THE STABLES SEASON PASS PROVIDES GUARANTEED ENTRY INTO ALL FOUR (4) WEEKS, 3 HOURS OF LIVE MUSIC FROM SOME OF THE REGION'S BEST TALENT, A 2024 42N TAP TREKKER REUSABLE STAINLESS STEEL PINT GLASS, AND NO SERVICE FEES. EVENT PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE FRIENDS OF KNOX FARM STATE PARK.

2024 MUSIC LINE-UP:

- FRIDAY, JULY 5TH- PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY
- FRIDAY, JULY 12TH, JOHNNY HART & THE MESS
- FRIDAY, JULY 19TH, LEROY TOWNES BAND
- FRIDAY, JULY 26TH, PA LINE



Sunset
Season Pass
Tickets!



Garden Club News

Happy Spring!! The Knox Farm State Park Garden Club is getting ready for their favorite season. It's time to discover what winter brought us and to get the gardens ready for wedding season! This year brings a special challenge; while work is being done on the loggia, we have to plant and landscape around the construction site at the front of the house. It's a challenge we are ready for and we're excited to have this beautiful addition that will open out onto the Zen garden.

Interested in joining us? Gardeners meet every Thursday for group work, and can work independently throughout the rest of the week (around events schedule). "I Love My Park Day" is a great opportunity to get your hands dirty and meet us. Hope to see you there!

Information on the Knox Garden Club and volunteering in the gardens can be found here:

<https://www.friendsofknoxfarm.org/volunteer-with-us.html>

We'd love to have you join us!

LISA SCHIFFERLE
Friends of Knox Member

Help support the Garden Club by donating old garden tools. We'd be happy to put to use:

- Gift Card to any area nursery-Support two places you love at the same time!
- Cordless leaf blower
- Cordless weed wacker
- Spear-head shovel
- Sturdy hand trowels
- Good quality hand pruners and loppers
- Neem oil
- Deer Stopper



Thanks to Erie County for our WONDERFUL new electric gardening cart. This thoughtful gift was put to good use last year and the gardeners are looking forward to another productive season!



Friends of Knox Farm State Park Participate in ECLIPSE SOUNDSCAPES Project

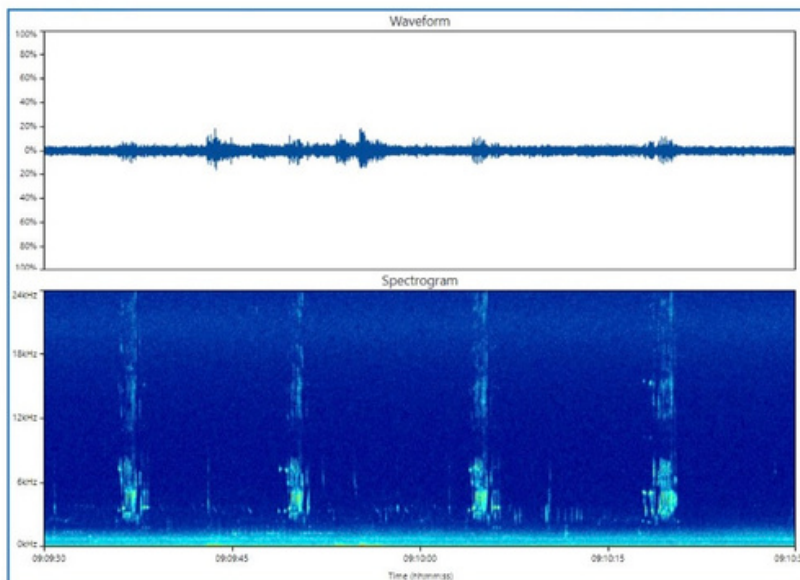


The Eclipse Soundscapes Project is a NASA Citizen Science project funded by NASA Science Activation that is studying how eclipses affect life on Earth during the October 14, 2023 annular solar eclipse and the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse. Eclipse Soundscapes (ES) will revisit an eclipse study from almost 100 years ago that showed that animals and insects are affected by solar eclipses! Like this study from 100 years ago, ES will ask for the public's help. ES will also use modern technology to continue to study how solar eclipses affect life on Earth!

Friends of Knox are participating in this project acting in the role of DATA COLLECTOR. To accomplish this, we will use an AudioMoth sound recording device for 5 days to evaluate the response of nature 2 days prior, the day of, and 2 days after the total solar eclipse. The AudioMoth device is a battery-powered sound recorder that will be placed in our protected bee yard with the idea that we can capture the nearby birdsong, insect, and honeybee reactions to the eclipse.

The AudioMoth is a battery powered sound recorder with a built in microphone that stores the sound data on a small MicroSD card. Once the 5-day recording period is complete, we will remove the MicroSD card and send that to the ES project team for evaluation of the data.

In a test collection period from 3/25-3/27 we recorded continuously and processed some of the data to evaluate how the device placement affects the type of data collected. Because of the cold temperatures the honeybees were not active and majority of the sounds are birdsong. The amplitude and spectral frequency data can be displayed visually while the sound is played.



The dataset shown here at the left is a 60 second clip.



The four clusters shown in the Frequency v. Time graph in the lower part of the view are from the Song Sparrow.

There are also geese honking in the background at much lower frequencies.

JIM YORK
Friends of Knox Member



Weddings and Events Rentals Updates

The 2024 season is shaping up to be our best yet, with a record number of rentals. With 20 weddings/receptions taking place at the Mansion (and even one at the stables!) we are looking forward to many lifetime memories being made at Knox this summer and fall. Most of our wedding parties are taking advantage of lodging at the Guest House during their special weekend, but we have some availability during the week for business off-site meetings, club activities, and week-night stays.

The Mansion is not just a wedding venue! It will also be used for The Friends' annual meeting, memorial celebrations, fundraisers, and school functions. If you are interested in renting either the Mansion or the Guest House for your special event, please contact Marcia at info@themansionatknoxfarm.org.

**Interested in
volunteering as a
Mansion Monitor at
one of these events?
Contact Marcia!**

Save the Date!

Our annual
Holiday Arts & Crafts Show
will be held on
October 26th and 27th
this year at the Mansion.

Friends of
KNOX FARM
STATE PARK

**CALL FOR
ARTISTS**

Holiday Arts & Craft Show

Saturday, October 26th and
Sunday, October 27th

Request an application:
info@themansionatknoxfarm.org

Knox Nature News: Total Solar Eclipse- Natural Phenomenon



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic
Preservation**

NICOLE CZARNECKI,
Environmental Educator



During a total solar eclipse, an awe-inspiring phenomenon occurs as the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun, casting a shadow that momentarily envelops certain areas of our planet in darkness. This rare celestial event brings not only a visual spectacle for human observers but also triggers remarkable changes in the natural world. As daylight disappears, the behavior of wildlife and the environment undergoes a series of intriguing adjustments, revealing the profound impact of light and temperature on Earth's natural inhabitants.

The sudden darkness and drop in temperature can cause confusion and disruption. Diurnal animals, which are active during the day, often mistake the eclipse for twilight and prepare for their night routines. Birds, for example, may begin their evening songs or head back to their nests, while bees and other insects may return to their hives. Nocturnal animals, which usually come out at night, can be tricked into believing it is their time to be active. Observations during eclipses have reported increased activity in species such as bats and owls, who interpret the premature darkness as a signal to begin their nightly hunting and activities. This temporary disruption in the daily rhythms of wildlife underscores the vital role of sunlight in regulating the natural behaviors of species across the globe.

The environment itself also experiences changes during a total solar eclipse. As the moon's shadow passes over, the rapid decrease in light and temperature can affect local weather patterns temporarily. The sudden cooling of the atmosphere can lead to an increase in wind speed and a change in wind direction, a phenomenon known as the "eclipse wind." Additionally, the rapid cooling can cause a noticeable decrease in temperature, which has been recorded to drop by as much as 11 degrees Fahrenheit in some instances. Plants that rely on sunlight for photosynthesis may also respond; for example, some flowers begin to close up, behaving as if night has fallen.

Witnessing a total solar eclipse is not only a breathtaking experience for humans but also a moment of significant impact on the natural world. The temporary shift from day to night and back again serves as a powerful reminder of the intricate connections between celestial events and life on Earth. As we continue to observe and study these phenomena, we gain a deeper appreciation for the delicate balance that sustains our planet's diverse ecosystems. Whether it's the sudden silence of birds or the cooling of the air, each change during an eclipse tells a story of nature's responsiveness to the cosmos, offering insights into the complex interplay of light, temperature, and life.



Did you Know?

In 2024, New York State Parks and Historic Sites celebrates their Centennial, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of New York State parks and sites system. This system was built for you, and continues to serve as an acknowledgment that public access to open space and recreational assets is a right, and not a privilege, afforded to all New Yorkers.

Throughout the year, they will reflect on the last one hundred years, celebrate the vital legislation that spurred the expansion of our parks and sites' network, and ignite conversation and action around preserving New York State lands for the next generation.

Join in the celebrations. Subscribe to [NYS Parks Newsletter](#) and keep up with all the exciting centennial celebrations happening throughout the state. Take on the Centennial Challenge and discover the beauty and diversity of NYS Parks throughout our region and beyond. Do you have a special memory connected to Knox Farm State Park or another state park? write, film photograph your story and submit it to Parks. They will collect these memories and share them on their social media channels, email newsletter, blog, and in many more ways. It's going to be a great year to visit NYS parks. We'll see you out there!

100 YEARS OF STORIES



Share Your Story

Share your favorite state park and historic site memories as part of our 100th anniversary celebration!

TAKE THE CHALLENGE



Take on the Centennial Challenge!

Complete 24 out of 100 activities for a chance to win!





Knox Farm State Park INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS MARCH - APRIL 2024



Sunday, March 3
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

WNY Winter Hiking Challenge

Join us for a walk on the WNY Winter Hiking Challenge's suggested trail for Knox Farm! Whether you are participating in this Challenge or the NYS Parks Centennial Challenge, this hike will check both lists.

Registration is required.



Thursday, March 7
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Tiny Tots: Sweet Sap Shenanigans

(Ages 3-5) Explore the natural world around us! This program will connect children & their parents with nature through short walks & fun activities.

Registration is required.



Thursday, April 4
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Tiny Tots: Space Explorers

(Ages 3-5) Get ready for the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8th! This program will connect children and their parents with the wonder of outer space through short walks, fun activities, and crafts.

Registration is required.



Saturday, April 13
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Paws in the Park

Enjoy a leisurely walk with your dog around the park with a Naturalist. It is not necessary to have a dog to participate, however, all dogs in attendance must be up-to-date on immunizations, leashed, and under control.

Registration is required.



Sunday, April 14
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Blue Bird-ing

Did you know that the Eastern Bluebird is the official bird of New York State? Enjoy a walk to observe the many nesting bluebirds of Knox Farm.

Registration is required.



Eventbrite



Registration is required for all programs.
Please register on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search #knoxfarmstatepark or scan the QR code.



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation
www.parks.ny.gov

Scan the QR code to sign up for our eNewsletter and stay up to date with all of our office's programming!



Knox Farm State Park INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS JUNE 2024



**Saturday, June 1st
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Paws in the Park

Enjoy a leisurely walk with your dog around the park with a Naturalist. It is not necessary to have a dog to participate, however, all dogs in attendance must be up-to-date on immunizations, leashed, and under control.
Registration is required.



**Saturday, June 15th
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

I Am Your Father

On this guided walk, in a far away galaxy, fathers of animals we will find. Enjoy a Father's Day and Scifi themed nature walk around the park.
Registration is required.



**Friday, June 21st
8:30 PM - 10:00 PM**

Knoxturnal Stroll

Adults only (18+). Enjoy a peaceful evening stroll through the rolling hills of Knox Farm in search of nocturnal animals.
Registration is required.



Eventbrite



Registration is required for all programs.
Please register on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search #knoxfarmstatepark or scan the QR code.



Scan the QR code to sign up for our eNewsletter and stay up to date with all of our office's programming!



Friends of Knox State Park and NYS Parks Partnership:

KNOX FARM PLANTING PROJECT

Improving the park one tree at a time

HONOR A LOVED ONE- OR COMMEMORATE A SPECIAL EVENT.

Plant a tree at the park:

Purchasing a tree as a gift to the park is the perfect way to remember special people and special occasions. Best of all, it supports the beauty and sustainability of the park. Your gift will be a lasting improvement to our landscape.

WHY ARE WE LOSING TREES?

Many factors contribute to the need for trees at the park:

- Stress from insect infestations.
- Extreme weather conditions including drought, heavy rainfall and blizzards.
- Heavy recreational usage in certain areas.
- Natural attrition due to age and location.

WHAT DOES MY TREE PURCHASE INCLUDE?

All donations are tax deductible and include:

- Cost of tree plus delivery, planting and maintenance.
- Tree wrap, stakes, irrigation bag, mulch.
- GPS coordinate of your tree once planted
- Engraved leaf plate to be placed on a memorial plaque inside Visitor's Center.

DO I HAVE CHOICES?

Species and location decisions are ultimately a park decision:

Donors may choose between evergreen trees and deciduous trees. All trees planted at Knox will be mature, native species and will be planted within a pre-determined landscape plan. Plantings will occur twice a year; in the spring and fall. Species decisions may be determined due to seasonal availability.

**THIS PROGRAM IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NYS PARKS
AND THE FRIENDS OF KNOX FARM STATE PARK, INC.**

Your stewardship of the park is greatly appreciated



Trees can be ordered online at:
www.friendsofknoxfarm.org
or mailed to:

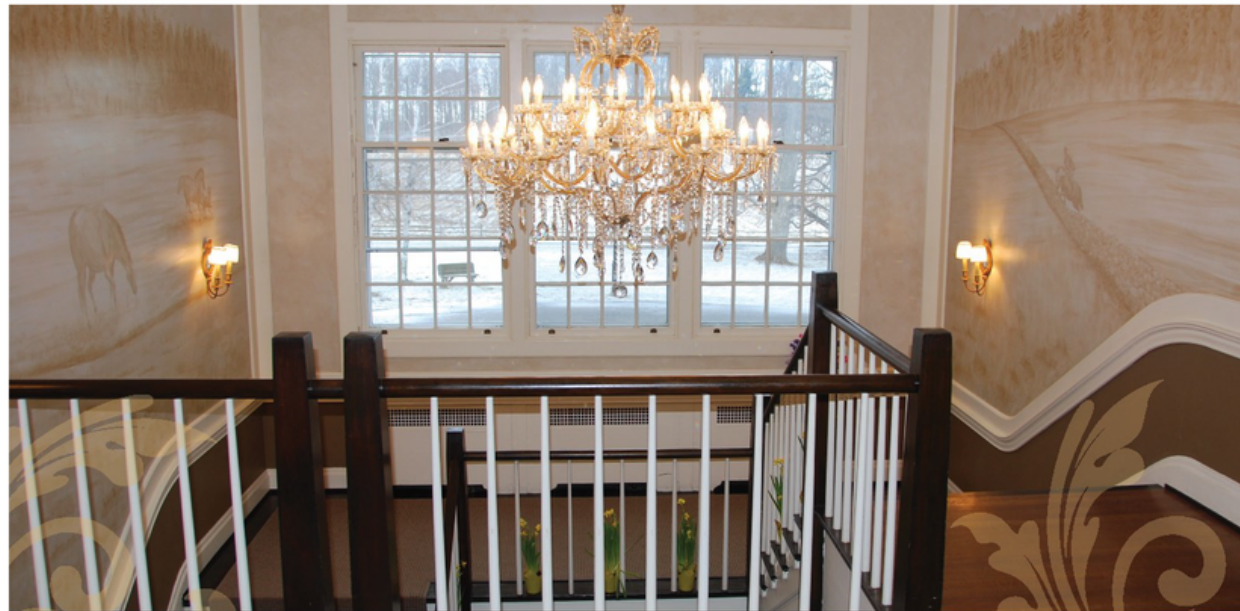
Friends of Knox Farm State Park, Inc.
P.O. Box 601, East Aurora, NY 14052

Questions? email: admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

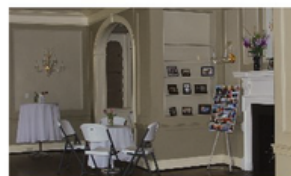
Friends - Please Share with anyone you may know who is looking for a unique venue to hold an event. Thank You!



WELCOME TO THE
Main House
AT KNOX FARM STATE PARK



This unique venue can be rented for
weddings,
corporate events,
private parties,
& fundraising events
May through October.



For information, rates and availability please email: info@themansionatknoxfarm.org



Friends, Please be Aware

A gentle reminder to please leash and clean up after your dog.



Your Input Matters

We would like to hear from you. If you have thoughts about the park that you would like to share with the Friends Board of Directors and the readers of this newsletter, email them to us at admin@friendsofknoxfarm.org We will include them in a future issue of the newsletter as space permits.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> PREMIER \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PATRON \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS \$250 |

For VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES or TO JOIN ONLINE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.friendsofknoxfarm.org

*Business members are listed and linked on our website

About The Friends of Knox Farm State Park:

The Friends of Knox Farm State Park, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation. Our primary mission is to promote, support, preserve and protect the recreational facilities, natural habitats, permanent green space and historic education programs and activities that develop an understanding and appreciation for the Park, nature and the environment. We work under a partnership with New York State Office of Parks and Recreation to facilitate our mission.