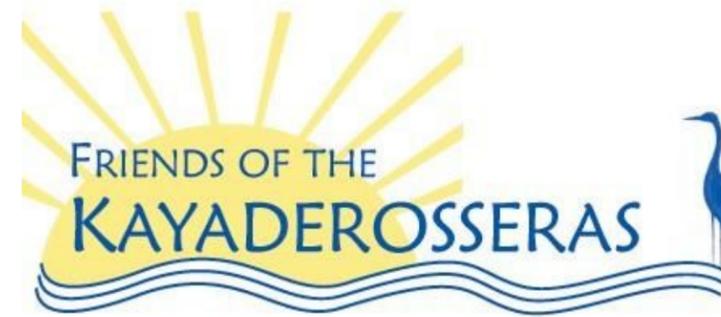


Friends of the Kayaderosseras

PO Box 223,
Ballston Spa, NY 12020



Our Mission:
To promote awareness and appreciation of the Kayaderosseras Creek and to inspire action to conserve and protect the creek and its watershed as both a natural and

www.Kayaderos.org

Info@kayaderos.org

Check in with "FOK" on Facebook
PO Box 223, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

(Continued from Page 2) What happens to stocked trout?

Trout DO survive the summer season and hold over until the next year, but not many. The biggest issue is poor catch & release practices. Both Dan and Bryan have ideas about how to improve this situation. Among them is having a section of the creek marked catch & release only, which would be done in conjunction with DEC. There are a number of practical considerations that go along with this initiative, including whether it would be respected by anglers, but it may not hurt to give it a try. Also, there's FAR less fishing pressure in the fall, giving fish a chance to spread out and find protection. So, given a choice, more stocking funds should go towards fall stocking.

Gone Fishin'

Dan and Bryan offered some tips for beginning anglers as well.

First, don't be afraid to try fly-fishing. Rather than using the weight of a lure to cast the line, fly fishing uses the weight of the line to cast a nearly weightless "fly." Fly-fishing is an engaging way to fish, very hands-on and visual. An 8'6" 4-weight rod, reel, and line is recommended. You can purchase this plus flies and sundries for around \$100.

But if you're sticking with spinning, you can use a basic 6' light tackle spinning rod and worms, 'rooster tail' spinners, or any small lure that imitates minnows.

When to fish: Best bets are April – June and October – November, on overcast days when the water temperatures are 50 – 65 degrees. (Not warm!)

Where to fish: Kelley Park up to the old knitting mill at Mechanic Street. Note: The Axe Street section feels like an Adirondack stream, and is one of our stocking points. Other areas: Factory Village fisherman's access, Boice Family Park, and Rock City Falls.

A little advice: Use waders! This way you can wade up, down, and across stream.

Some of the best spots are off the beaten path! (Also, it's a good idea to protect yourself from ticks, poison ivy, prickles, etcetera.)

John Battenfield, former FoK trout stocking liaison and fly-fisherman, started FoK's stocking program some years ago, and is very pleased that Friends of the Kayaderosseras is continuing with it.

{Continued} So, that creates the conditions ripe for the break up and movement of ice "flows" downstream; this, then, brings the first factor into play...when the water-depth is insufficient to carry the ice, the ice then "anchors" on the river bed or other obstructions (logs, structures/bridges, etc.) and the pile-up begins. On the Kayaderosseras at Kelley Park, this is typically the bend at the far-end of the Park. As many of you know there is a sharp bend and constriction in the river there and the water is, invariably, shallow. Past that bend, the gradient of the river also changes dramatically and the water becomes "flat"; meaning the gradient is less-steep and the river becomes wider, shallower, smoother and slower. All these factors (the gradient, the bend, the depth, the width of the channel, etc.) amount to the ice falling out of the water column to form the jam. This past winter, this is exactly where the head of the jam formed.

As I said above, the J-hooks have been working to deepen the channel, protect Kelley Park from flooding, protect the parking lot and bank on that side for being carried away in a flood and improve that reach of the stream since they were installed nearly 10 years ago. Although they may act as an obstruction, depending on how deep the flow in the river is, at bank-full run, there is approximately 2-3 feet of elevation difference between the top-of-bank (parking lot) and the tops of the crown-stones of the J-hooks. That is no accident. They were designed and constructed that way so that material being carried by the river at bank-full or flood-stage would not get hung up on them.

While the J-hooks can act as an obstruction at lower flow-conditions (base flow), such flows in the KC typically do not carry ice because that 3:1 ratio isn't there to break up and move the ice. More-typically the water will flow under the ice at base-flow and over the ice when runoff is elevated, but, not at bank-full stage. In either instance, the J-hooks are not a factor because the ice isn't a factor.

Now, I may well eat my words for breakfast someday. But, in the meantime, now that we know this is a semi-regular occurrence, we will have to monitor conditions to make more well-informed judgements about when the jams will form, what the cause/s are, and, if there's anything that we can do to alleviate the conditions. But, for now, I'd say the pluses of the J-hooks have it over the minuses.

Conserving the Creek

Spring 2019

Spring Clean-up: May 4th Kelly Park 9:00 am

Friends of the Kayaderosseras is hosting their Annual Spring Clean-Up Day of access points and other lands of the Kayaderosseras Creek **Saturday, May 4th.**

The group conducts this event at public access sites along the Kayaderosseras Creek and its tributaries twice a year. This season, volunteers will clean-up 17 sites along the creek and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Volunteers will meet at the Kelley Park pavilion in Ballston Spa at 9:00 a.m. May 4th.

Clean-up teams will be designated and dispatched to the various sites throughout Saratoga County. At the sites, volunteers sweep for trash, large and small, and return to Kelley Park to sort the collection for final distribution.

Lunch will be provided for volunteers at 12:30 p.m. in the park when the collection and sorting process is complete.

Volunteers are asked to bring weather and task-appropriate clothing, such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, boots and a sturdy pair of work gloves, preferably leather.

We are also trying to reduce the use of plastic bags so please bring as many reusable bags or containers as you can for trash collection.

Detailed maps of each site and transportation will be provided.

Conservation Director Joseph Acee scouted the sites last weekend and will be at Kelley park to dispatch volunteers to the various FOK locations. "The Spring is always an interesting time for the clean-up. The six months of winter trash build up is always a challenge so we are looking forward to getting out there to make things right as rain."

For information, contact Joseph Acee at

accdesign@yahoo.com or (518) 618-5237.

-----Events Calendar-----

Fish Stocking: April 13th, 10:00 AM

Creek-Tenders' Paddle: TBD

Spring Clean-up: May 4th Kelly Park

Trail Work at Greys Crossing—June 8th

Paddle Trip: July 13th TBD

Wading for Tires: Aug 10th—Gray's

Pedal the Creek: Sept 7th—Greenfield

Trail Work: Oct 5th—Boice Park

Fall Clean up: Nov 2nd Kelly Park

Check FB and Website for details



Fish Stocking was another great success

Thanks to all who helped out with the Trout Stocking. Great Weather, High Water and a Big Crowd of People.

Let's do the Numbers...

664 - Trout released

265 - People in attendance

151 - Kids

64 - The temperature at stocking time

Letter from the President

This year, 2019, marks the 15th anniversary for Friends of the Kayaderosseras. Wow! A big thank you and congratulations is in order for all who have made this possible. From the very beginning the organization focused on listening to the concerns of our stakeholders and the two messages that came through loud and clear were "clean up the creek" and "improve access." Over the years our efforts have branched off into a variety of activities including a very popular trout stocking program, group paddles, and our new Pedal the Creek bike tour, however the heart and soul of what we do remains in our clean-ups and in our park stewardship program.

Fifteen years on, and we continue with our well-attended spring and fall clean-ups removing years-old trash from the Creek and the creek banks. In addition, we have added the Creek Tenders' Paddle and our summer Wading for Tires event both of which contribute to the cause by removing trash from the Creek. Our work is showing positive results and as we find less trash in the "usual places," we have expanded our reach into the tributaries and further up-stream.

We have worked cooperatively with many local municipalities and the State of New York to improve and increase recreational access. To date we maintain partnerships at six parks along the Creek. Our Park Stewards continue to volunteer their time maintaining over six miles of trails as well fishing and paddling access points along the Creek at Cottrell-Harrington Park in Rock City Falls, Boice Family Park in the Town of Milton, Kelley Park in the Village of Ballston Spa, Gray's Crossing and Driscoll Road Landing in Saratoga Spa State Park, and Blodgett Park Landing in the City of Saratoga Springs. In addition, we are working at developing trails and improving access at our newly acquired 42-acre property, which truly is a hidden treasure, at Axe Factory Preserve.

So, get out to the Kayaderosseras this year. Enjoy the fishing or hunt for crayfish. Go for a hike or a quiet paddle and enjoy that little bit of wilderness we have right here in Saratoga County.

Thank you again to all who have contributed to our successes over the last 15 years and let's look forward to another 15. If you are interested in pitching in and becoming a Park Steward, please contact us at

info@kayaderos.org and please be on the lookout for our annual member appeal and consider continuing your support of our efforts with your paid membership.

Richard Bashant



Fish On! Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting on March 11th featured a presentation on the unique attributes of the Kayaderosseras by Dan Gejay and Bryan Spinner. Dan is an avid fly fisherman from Schenectady who has been fishing the Kayaderosseras for ten years; this year he has taken over as point person for our Trout Stocking program. Bryan is a Licensed NYS Fishing Guide focused on wild trout in mountain tributaries and classic rivers like the Battenkill and West Canada Creek.

Dan and Bryan stressed that the Kayaderosseras is exceptional in many ways. First of all, its environment and location – there are many scenic stretches, but it's close to downtown Ballston Spa, and a short drive from most points in the Capital Region. There are plenty of food sources for trout – stoneflies, crayfish, and minnows. And the fishing is year-round - a little-known secret. (The next closest year-round stream is the Battenkill.) Lastly, thanks in part to FoK, there is ongoing creek and trail maintenance, as well as trout-stocking.

Talking about Stocking

Most stocking takes place from Geyser & Middleline Roads down to Kelley Park. In 2018, FoK stocked 850 9" – 13" Rainbow trout in the spring and 750 8" – 15" Rainbow & Brook trout in the fall. New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) stocks brown trout throughout the stream, with heavy stocking above Rock City Falls.

(continued on back cover)

J-Hooks at Kelly Park: By Blue Neils

At the Annual Meeting it was thought by some that the J-hooks at Kelley Park installed in 2009 were the cause of the ice jam which forced the Village to close Ralph Street. Equally, this was also thought to be the cause, in part or whole, in past winters as well. Although, I would have to admit that they may play a role, they are certainly not the sole cause. In fact, if anything, they have enabled the Kayaderosseras to pass ice more easily through that section of the stream by virtue of the fact that the 2 hooks at Kelley have greatly deepened the channel, as they were meant to do.

J-Hooks are rock-vane grade control structures used in streams and rivers to redirect flow away from banks where erosion is an issue and fish habitat quality is moderate to low. They accomplish this by altering the existing flow-path of the stream to create a more pronounced and deeper center-channel by directing and funneling the water in a stream away from the bank.

Additionally, J-hooks will also create a longer and deeper scour-hole on the back side of the "J" or hook-portion of the vane. This is accomplished by installing the rock/boulders at gapped intervals so that the water passes between them, rather than spilling over them. This creates a vortex behind each gap, creating greater shear-stress in the center-channel. The vortices, in turn, shift the bed of the stream left, right, and downstream to create a longer, deeper pool than is possible using a W-weir or Cross-vane structure. However, at bank-full flow (last stop before flood-stage), the entire structure is under water to minimize any influence the structure may have as a barrier to flow which tends to cause the water to move laterally (left, right; typically at 90° to the obstruction) and exacerbate any flooding which may occur. J-hooks and other vane-structures also act to improve other aspects of stream-, water-, and habitat-quality. The vortex of flow-paths between the "crown stones" (gaps) creates both upwelling and down-welling, vertically, in the water column, places sought after by trout and other riverine salmonids. Additionally, they also tend to tumble the water as it moves between the gaps and over the anchor stones, which increases the dissolved oxygen content of the water, lowers the temperature, and even kills off a little bacteria. Through time, J-hooks create a deep pool of fast-flowing water with lots of cover perfect for ambush predators such as trout.

To explain this, first you have to know a few important facts about rivers and ice and ice jams. Probably the most important is that it takes roughly a 3:1 ratio of water-depth to ice-thickness in order for the river to break up and carry ice downstream. Meaning the depth of water in the Kayaderosseras must be about 3 times greater than the thickness of the ice. So, if the ice is 12-inches thick, there has to be at least 36 inches of water in the channel to carry the ice.

Second, is being mindful of the conditions which create that ratio; typically, 3 or more days above freezing OR a good dose of rain while snow is still on the ground. These conditions have become fairly common for our winters here (climate change anyone?). We get multiple rain-on-snow weather events; and, during the "January Thaw" we often have 3-5 .days where the average daily highs are well above freezing. **{Continued on Back Page}**

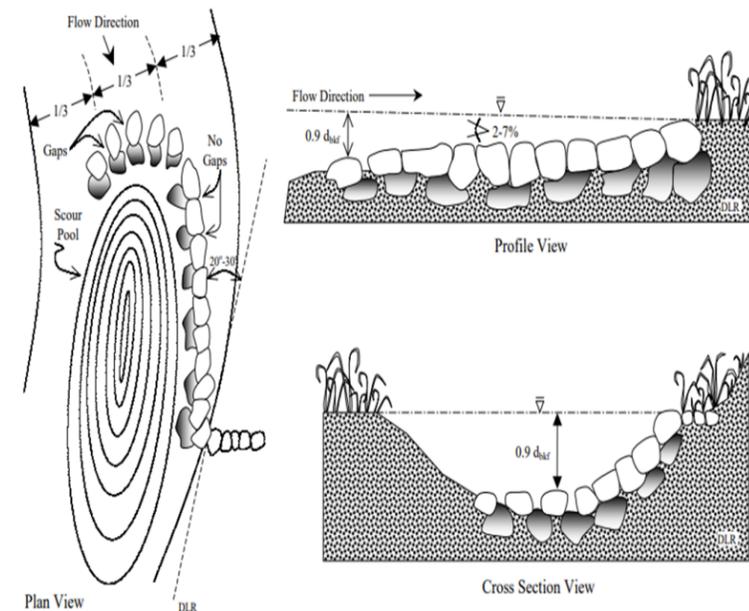


Figure 6. Plan, profile, and section view of the J-Hook Vane