Tanglewood Newsletter May - August 2026

Tanglewood Talks

Tanglewood Treetop Walkway Project Breaks Ground with Community Celebration

By Elaine Smith, Executive Director

There was a buzz of excitement in the air on Friday, April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. as more than 60 people gathered to celebrate the official groundbreaking of Tanglewood's highly anticipated Treetop Walkway Project.

The crowd was a wonderful reflection of the community that has helped bring this project to life. Local media, state and federal representatives, foundation partners, project donors, staff from Chemung and Corning Chambers of Commerce, Tanglewood board and staff members, and even families enjoying spring break all came together for the special occasion.

One of the most memorable moments of the morning was when attendees were invited to sign one of the large support poles that will become part of the walkway itself. This simple but meaningful gesture ensures that everyone present will forever have a connection to the project, literally becoming part of the structure that will inspire visitors for years to come!

Throughout the event, there was a clear sense of enthusiasm and pride. Conversations buzzed about the future of the walkway, the new opportunities it will bring for education and tourism, and what it means for the region as a whole. For many, it was a chance to see years of planning and support finally take a visible step forward.

After the ceremonial groundbreaking, guests lingered to celebrate together over coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts, sharing stories, excitement, and anticipation for what will certainly be an eventful year at Tanglewood.

The Treetop Walkway represents more than just a new attraction, it's a symbol of community collaboration, vision, and a shared commitment to connecting people with nature in new and meaningful ways. And, if the energy at the groundbreaking was any indication, the journey ahead is just as exciting as the destination.

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Tanglewood
Nature Center & Museum

Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum
443 Coleman Ave. Elmira NY 14903
(607)732-6060

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday-Friday 9am-4pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

Closed: New Year's Eve. New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, & Christmas Day

Trails open dawn to dusk 365 days a year

www.tanglewoodnaturecenter.com

Upcoming Events

250 Years of Nature - Environmental Literature
May 21st at 3:30pm
Located at the Big Flats Library

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, Tanglewood is partnering with local libraries for a special lecture series exploring the history and importance of environmental conservation in America. Each program will highlight a different theme from America's environmental past.

Tanglewood Dads
June 20th from 11am-12pm
Suggested $5 donation per family

This Father's Day weekend, join Ryan to explore what fatherhood looks like in the natural world. Learn how animal dads care for, protect, and raise their young, and meet some remarkable examples with our animal ambassadors along the way.

Wild Wednesday - Living Fossils
July 8th from 10am - 11am
Suggested $5 donation per family

Join us to explore the fascinating fossils you can find in your own backyard! Discover the dinosaurs that once roamed our region and learn what their ancient world looked like. We'll also introduce you to some of our animal ambassadors, modern-day relatives of those distant dinos!

Wild Wednesday - Migration Madness
August 12th from 10am - 11am
Suggested $5 donation per family

Join us for a fun and informative program all about the species that migrate and the reasons behind their incredible journeys. We'll meet some of our animal ambassadors who could migrate in the wild, then take a short walk through our pollinator garden and around the pond to look for migrating butterflies or birds.

New Members & Donations

Nuthatch $50
Brie Cavaluzzi
Catherine Fennell
Sam Halperin
Chad & Lisa McDonald
Alexis Rolston

Chickadee $60
John & Heather Abbott
Sherrie Allen
Susan Amisano
Rachel Aron
Makenna Arthur
Catie & Nathaniel Ball
Jozelyn BeGell
Britney & Kyle Bell
Sarah Blank
Katherine & Connor Bohnen
Sarah Bowen
Jaewon & Catherine Chang
Torrey Clark
Michelle Conklin
Caci Edwards
Kendall Elwood
Christina Emrick
Kevin Fennell
Cady Folts
Kirsten Frankel
Jessica Gerrish
Syrah Gilley
Emily Gowen
Maureen Harkleroad
Stacey Hayes
Marta Hernandez
Maria & Cody Hutcheson
James Knuppenburg
Lauren Koenig
Mitchell Lewis
Isabelle & Jake Loper
Lydia Lynch
Rebekah Macfie
Maggie Lynn Marshall
Kaitlin & Andrew Miller
Drew & Chelsie Mitchell
Katherine & Seth Nickerson
Clayton Olney
Sarah Pervis
Brittany Pitchford
Shannon Radford
Lori Ramich
Mike Mason & Casey Rose
Rabbi Tom Samuels
William Scalzo
Nancy Shaw
Lindsey Snell
Andrew Sowers
Lindsey Stiles
Justine Stocum
Heather Vanselous
Kate Walton
Alyssa & Daniel Weber
Nate Weisenberg
Megan White
Vicki Youngs
Ann & Nathan Zink

Bluebird $100-$499
Edmund & Mary Adamus
Charley & Lori Friend
Jennifer O'Hara
Jason & Elizabeth Parker
Victoria Pierri

Cardinal $500-$999
Matthew & Kristen DellaVecchia

Continuing 1973 Patron Circle Members
Robert Aumick
William &Ann Bishop
Ann G. Brouse
Dean Butts
Joseph & Giuliana Calderone
Duke & Wendy Carroll
Janet & Brian Chilson
Mary Muse & Kevin Coughlin
Kintu & Yulonda Early
Jim & Sharon Emmick
Thomas & Deborah Fennell
Muriel Friend
Frank & Linda Gudas
Linda Hillman
Jon & Donna Homuth
Douglas Iszard
Deborah & Donald Lauper
Janet & John McLaughlin
Arthur & Beverly Morrell
Kammie Morrisey
Thomas & Margaret Morse
Kaye Newbury
Lynette Rexford
Bonnifer & Leslie Schweizer
Stuart & Lucy Schweizer
Marc & Tracey Stemerman
Alan & Maria Winston

Grants
The Anderson Foundation, Inc.
ZBGA

Treetop Walkway Donations
Edmund & Mary Adamus
Sherrie Allen
Tedd & Carol Arnold
Rick & Shelly Bacmanski
Joan Berkowitz
Patricia Blair
Mike Bono
Timothy Brown & Nicole Buning
Daniel & Jane Burke
Dawn Bush
Dean Butts
Joan Case
Jim Chely
John Rudd & Beverly Chin
Kim Clark
Marcy Coggins
Doug & Linda Couchon
Hank & Betsy Dalrymple
Teresa DeMember
Larry & Maddy Dolkart
Mike Michalko & Jo Ann Douglas
Kimtu & Yulonda Early
Bruce & Diane Elston
Barbara Etzel
Julie Ferris
Timothy Frawley
Barbara Friedman
Ken Frost
Jeff & Jeanne Gridley
Jerry & Linda Haley
Michael & Michelle Halperin
John Helfinstine
Linda Hillman
Amy Houser-Curley
Douglas Iszard
Jane Joralemon
Chris Josephson
Marcus & Charlotte Kantz
Kamala Keeley
Joe Kelly

Jennifer Krasnansky
Bob & Julie Kriston
Robert & Karin Kurcoba
Patty Lamoreaux
Thomas Lane
J. Carol Lincoln
Christine Lynch
Sam M
Rick Marsi
Douglas Martin
Margaret Matthews
Chelsie Maynard
Todd Egan & Jennifer Meekins
Christine Michaelson
Michael Mitchell
Gary & Dianne Moffe
Tom & Margaret Morse
Mike & Katie Muldoon
Lynne Murdock
Bill & Joan Ostrander
Victoria Pierri
Dr. Peter & Eileen Remec
Glenn & Mary Jane Rolls
Thomas & Patricia Santulli
Laureen Sassaman
Lewis & Mary Scott
Michelle Sherwood
Chris Smith
Dean Smith
Mona Steigerwald
Gabriel & Janelle Sudduth
George & Pat Thompson
Arthur & Margaret Tipton
Jassemine Tokuz
Micheal Turner
Grace Watts
Mike & Missy Wayne
Randy & Kathy Weidner
Annie Werner
Suzanne West
Kelsey Williams
Christopher & Mary Wynings
Lois Yontz
Horseheads Kiwanis Club
Mengel, Metger, Barr & Co. LLP
Triad Foundation

Special Treetop Walkway Donations
In memory of Patricia Knope
From: Bill & Ann Bishop

In gratitude to Robert & Michael Murdock
From: Susan King

In memory of Diane Woodhouse
From: Gregory & Rebecca Levanduski

In memory of Matt Perry
From: Joy Perry

In Honor of Scott & Sharon Moore
From: Marilyn Robinowitz

In honor of Maureen Maloney
From: Beth Ann Roggie

In memory of Dr. Charles Friend
From: Women's Club of Big Flats

Annual Appeal Donations
Gentry Wooldridge & Gail Bartlett
Heather Bernhardt
Matthew & Anne Brand
John & Betsy Brand
Crystal Brown
Lori Crumb
Kevin & Laura Cummings
Anne Field
Carlos Flores
Mathew & Christine Green
Michael & Michelle Halperin
Roberta Hoffman
Ed & Laura Hunkele
Douglas Iszard
Don & Deb Lauper
Mark & Wendy Mathew
Mark Holman & Maureen Mines
Francis Morrisey
Tony & Patty Murray
John & Sharon Neidrich
Gordon & Mary Schuehler
Brett & Anne Shelton
Robert & Heather Stanton
Elm Chevrolet
Peterson Giving Fund
Yunis Realty, Inc
Monetary Donations
Christopher Collins
Duke & Wendy Carroll
United Way of the Southern Tier
Steven & Karol Wright
Animal Sponsors
Cindy Ericson

In Memory of Donations
In Memory of Barbara McDowell
From: Jim & Lydia Eldridge
Phyllis Rogan

In Memory of Adrienne Berhardt
From: Hans Bernhardt
Michael & Kathleen Galvin
Susanne Hicks
Wendy Matthew

In Memory of Patricia Knope
From: Nancy Bast

In Memory of Dr. Charles Friend
From: Albert & Deborah Ash
Joseph & Giuliana Calderone
Sheldon Damberg
Alan Angell & Beth Dollinger
Lisa Goodrick
Frank & Linda Gudas
John Gunselman
Joy Hoffman
Stephen Hoffman
Ronald Palmquist
Michele Quagliana
Carol White

In Memory of Charles & Muriel Friend
From: William & Rebecca Schlag

In Memory of Gene Groce
From: Patricia Reiland-Hess
Joyce Troutman

In Memory of Diane Woodhouse
From: Lawrence & Peggy Comereski
Jane Cummings
Jim & Sharon Cummings
Scott & Mary Learned
John & Linda Marks
Tom & Margie Rodgers

Sponsoring the Butterfly Garden in Memory of Ellen Hyland
From: Sara Hyland

Sponsoring the Butterfly Garden in Honor of Art & Bev Morrell's 60th Wedding Anniversary
From: Angie & Sean Hanrahan
Don & Judy Mustico

In Kind Donations
Rob Aumick: Rulers and large envelopes

Sara Hurley: Kale, apples, peanut butter, nature magazines & notecards

Charlotte Kantz: Books for our library

Spacial thanks to The Tree Foundation for a donation of two signs to be placed on the Treetop Walkway

Tanglewood's Tiny Tardigrades

By Ryan Donnelly

With the introduction of the Treetop Walkway, we are excited to gain a new perspective on a variety of familiar animals, from observing birds at eye level in the canopy to quietly watching deer move through the forest below. One lesser-known animal we hope to better understand is the tardigrade.

Tardigrades, also known as "water bears" or "moss piglets," are eight-legged microscopic animals closely related to arthropods. They were first described in 1773 by German zoologist Johann Goeze, who named them Kleiner Wasserbär ("little water bear"). A few years later, in 1776, Italian biologist Lazzaro Spallanzani gave them the name Tardigrada, meaning "slow walkers."

Scientists estimate that tardigrades first appeared 500–600 million years ago, during the Cambrian period. They are found in an incredible range of habitats, from mountaintops and tropical forests to the deep ocean. Tardigrades are well known for their resilience, with the ability to survive extreme temperatures, intense pressure, radiation, dehydration, and even the vacuum of space. Despite this toughness, many terrestrial tardigrades live in relatively humble places, commonly inhabiting mosses and lichens.

Which brings us back to our walkway. With new access to the forest canopy, we have a unique opportunity to study tardigrades right here in our own backyard. Mosses and lichens growing high in the treetops may host tardigrade communities that differ from those found closer to the ground. Researchers, including Meg Lowman and the TREE Foundation, have already begun exploring how tardigrade species vary throughout the canopy, helping to define their taxonomy and distribution.

At Tanglewood, this opens the door to exciting possibilities. By collecting small samples from different heights and tree species, we can begin to compare where tardigrades are most abundant and how canopy conditions, like moisture, sunlight, and temperature, shape their presence. These tiny animals may offer big insights into the hidden biodiversity of our forest and how ecosystems change from the ground to the treetops.

Photo by Philippe Garcelon

Board & Staff

Board

Janet Chilson, President
William Bishop, Vice President
Tom Caroscio, Treasurer
Kevin Gallagher, Secretary
Irene Brookins
Greg Clark
Paul DiPietro
Deb Fennell
Duke Frost
Laurie Garner
Richard Gridley
Tina MacRonald
Richard McNeilly
Mustafa Hazime
Joshua Latterell
Kevin Orvek
Angela Tufillaro
Alexis Rolston
Claire Warren-Ginnan

Staff

Elaine Smith, Executive Director
Deanna O'Brian, Office Manager
Ryan Donnelly, Lead Educator
Bob Kurcoba, Facilities & Grounds
Megan Walters, Curator/Educator
Genevieve Egan, Marketing & Office Associate
Maggie Groce, Volunteer Coordinator/Educator/Summer Camp Director

Wish list

For the Animals

- Fresh fruit & veggies (esp. non-iceburg lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, broccoli, asparagus, sweet potatoes, strawberries, melon, blueberries)
- Gift Cards from: Petco, PetSmart, Grocery Stores (esp Miniers)
- Timothy Hay
- Newspapers

For the Programs/ Camps/Exhibits/Trails

- Crayons
- Construction Paper
- Glue Sticks
- Washable Markers
- Scotch tape
- Duct tape
- Pencils
- Children's nature books

For the Office/Building

- White office paper and/ or card stock
- Drink cups (paper, compostable packs of 25 or more)
- Coffee cups (paper, compostable packs of 25 or more)
- Paper towels, toilet paper (Scott only), Kleenex
- Gift Cards from: Staples, Sam's Club

For Fundraisers/Rental

- Gift Certificates to anywhere for our fundraisers
- Bamboo Silverware
- Plates (paper, compostable packs of 25 or more)
- Recycled napkins

Volunteer & Internship Opportunities

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. We offer undergraduate students the opportunity to work alongside our staff in three positions: animal care/museum, environmental education, and nonprofit management. Internships are unpaid but can usually be used for college credits. Please email your application and a cover letter to Maggie, Volunteer Coordinator (volunteer.tanglewood@gmail.com).

Animal Care and Museum Curator Internship:
This position has duties including cleaning, maintaining and designing museum exhibits, feeding and healthcare for animals, and handling/socializing animals.

Environmental Education Internship:
Position involves assisting with or conducting educational workshops and programs, guided tours, and hikes.

Committee Members:
Committee opportunities are available for: Fundraising, Facilities and Trails, Community Relations, Human Resources and Nominating and Board Development.

Our funding comes from memberships, funding, facility rentals, grants, fees from programming, and private donations from community members like you.

Donate Today

Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum