

A Decade of Learning on the 'Trail'

By Terry Byrnes

This is the first in a series of articles about Kids Discover the Trail! to mark its 10th anniversary.

Imagine elementary-school children discovering the world—here in Tompkins County—through experiences that inspire them to become more engaged as students, better critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

Kids Discover the Trail! (KDT) does all this, and more, by providing field trips with educational programming at the eight world-class Discovery Trail organizations. Students study animals in art, learn how libraries work, identify fossils, analyze wind energy, identify wildflowers, reenact 18th-century schooling, find bird habitats and share leadership challenges. In addition to field trips, KDT features classroom activities, social interaction and a book for each student, which build on the field-trip experience.

KDT is a learning experience for young people, broadening their knowledge and inspiring lifelong interests. It creates equal access for all students and teachers to the Discovery Trail and attracts families to the trail as students bring their families to see what they learned.

"Reflecting on the first ten years of Kids Discover the Trail!, I am so proud of this collaborative effort and the participation of over 25,000 students since it began," says Don Rakow, former director of Cornell Plantations. "The KDT model successfully provides students and teachers with meaningful, hands-

on experiences that support classroom learning and engage students' imaginations."

School-district teachers and Discovery Trail educators collaborate to design and present comprehensive student experiences using Discovery Trail resources to align with the New York State Learning Standards. Students develop important communications skills and collaborative problem solving. They learn that museums and libraries are fun and inviting places where they can explore new ideas and gain a better understanding of their local and global communities.

Each grade, pre-K through fifth grade, is linked with one of the Discovery Trail organizations each year, with grade- and site-specific curriculum designed for KDT. Pre-K is linked with the Johnson Museum of Art, kindergarten with the Tompkins County Public Library, first grade with Museum of the Earth, second grade with the Sciencenter, third grade with Cornell Plantations, fourth grade with Eight Square Schoolhouse and fifth grade with both the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Cayuga Nature Center.

As students advance from one grade to the next, they move to a different Discovery Trail site so that at the end of their seven years, they have experienced programs at all eight. Social interaction is part of the Ithaca program to help students from our eight elementary schools gain a better understanding of each other and have connections across the district before middle school. KDT partners all 3,000 Ithaca students in over 150 class-



Photo by 3D Cinematation

All ICSD second-grade students visit the Sciencenter as part of Kids Discover the Trail! Ithaca. The Sciencenter educators offer "Power the Future" during which students learn about climate change and wind energy.

rooms with other classrooms at the same grade level for the activities.

KDT is funded by annual charitable donations to the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) and is supported by the Ithaca City School District (ICSD). In Trumansburg, donations are made to the Trumansburg Central School District Foundation (TCSDF) which partners with its district. To expand the program, the Discovery Trail is coordinating programming and financial support for all districts.

IPEI has connected classrooms with community resources through grants to teachers since 1996 and was seeking additional ways to con-

nect students and teachers with the community. The KDT vision was first introduced at a workshop with over 250 parents, teachers, local business people and Discovery Trail representatives in April 2004.

"It was a wildly ambitious idea to create excitement about learning by connecting students by grade level with the world-class resources of the Discovery Trail," says Frank Robinson, former director of Cornell's Johnson Museum of Art. "Not only did lesson content have to be developed, but also the challenging logistics of moving so many students from different schools to all eight Discovery Trail sites."

Please turn to page 11

JAY ZIMMER & PAUL STAGE, OWNERS

MON-FRI
8AM TO 5:30PM
SAT. BY APPT. ONLY

"COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICING"

COME SEE US FOR A FREE ESTIMATE! **COOPER TIRES**

DON'T BE TAKEN FOR A RIDE- JAYZ WILL GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!

JayZ Auto Repair & Tire Center

NY STATE INSPECTIONS **607-564-9072**

FAX: 564-9072
32 PIPER RD. • NEWFIELD, NY 14867

Trumansburg Optical

Neil Henninger, O.D.

Full Service Eye Care

We Welcome

Providing optical services for patients of all ages, contact lens services, and a wide selection of frames and accessories.

Please call for an appointment

607-387-7327

11 East Main Street (Rte. 96), Trumansburg

CAYUGA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Lanfranco Marcelletti, Music Director

OPENING NIGHT ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

Saturday, September 27, 2014 (pre-concert chat 6:45pm)

NOTE TIME CHANGE: 7:30pm

HAYDN: Overture from *Lisola Disabitata*

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op 93

ELGAR: Concerto for Cello, Op 85

STEVEN DOANE, Cello

1-800-838-3006

FOR SINGLE TICKETS, brownpapertickets.com

Adults: \$28 / Seniors: \$25 / Students: \$7 / IC Student Rush Available

Concert Sponsors:

Media Sponsor:

TO SUBSCRIBE:

Call 607-273-8981

2014-15 Season Sponsor:

Soloist Sponsor:

Hangar Theatre Presents 'Back to the Garden' Tribute Concert

"Back to the Garden," a musical tribute to folk-rock trailblazers Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Laura Nyro, returns to the Hangar Theatre on Sept. 19 and 20 at 8 p.m.

Performed by Melissa Hammans and vocalists Maddy Wyatt and Shaleah Adkisson, who are accompanied by a live band, "Back to the Garden" features some of the most-loved songs by King, Mitchell and

Nyro, including "I feel the Earth Move," "Stony End" and "Big Yellow Taxi." Audience members who enjoyed the show at its sold-out engagement last fall will hear some familiar favorites this year, as well as several new songs: "Natural Woman," "One Fine Day" by Carol, and "Stoned Soul Picnic."

Hangar Artistic Director Jen Waldman, is thrilled to bring Back

to the Garden to the theatre again: "As a kid, I spent many a road trip with my family playing the cassette tape of Carole King's 'Tapestry' album over and over and over again. This music holds a special place in my heart, as I know it does for so many people here in Ithaca."

"Back to the Garden" is part of the Hangar's fall lineup of shows, which includes a holiday perform-

ance by the Burns Sisters Band on Dec. 12 and 13. Visit www.HangarTheatre.org for more information on upcoming events.

Tickets start at \$18 and can be purchased online, by phone at 273-ARTS (2787), or in person at the Hangar Theatre business office located in Center Ithaca on the Commons (Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m).

Poet

Continued from page 2

civic vision.

The William Hamilton Lecture in November will be presented by William N. Valavanis, bonsai master. The lecture is an introduction to the art of bonsai. There will also be a class for those wishing to try their hand at this classic Japanese art of growing miniature trees.

When asked which lecture she is most looking forward to, Skelly demurred. "The kind of lectures where there's that deeper connection beyond just the how-to ... those are the lectures I get really excited about," she says. "And I think our audiences do, too."

For more information on each of the lectures, see www.cornellplantations.org.

Glamour

Continued from page 3

all ages.

Many novice campers fear the camp bathroom, but Emma Frisch proudly shows off the glamp-ground's restrooms, just a short walk from the tents. There are two

private bathrooms, each with a toilet, sink and a hot shower. There are also a sauna and a small lounge. Glampers are also welcome to use August Moon Spa's bathrooms, showers and sauna whenever they desire.

Firelight Camps is open from May to October. For those who can't bear to leave their four-legged friends at home, three of the tents are dog-friendly. For more information, visit www.firelightcamps.com.

Trail

Continued from page 5

After six months of planning, KDT began as a pilot centered on the field trip. Initial funding was provided by local foundations and businesses. As the impact and logistics were evaluated and improved, program enhancements were added to the core trip, including a book related to that year's theme, pairings of students from different schools to increase understanding across the community and additional field trips to extend learning and increase social interaction.

Each year more students partic-

ipated as funding was raised and as teachers learned of the program's benefits. By 2009, ICSD reached 100-percent student involvement, where it remains today.

Going forward, KDT is a priority of IPEI, which continues to evaluate, improve and manage the Ithaca program. "KDT is a Discovery Trail priority as it aligns with our mission of providing accessible educational opportunities," says Charlie Trautmann, executive director of the Sciencenter.

As word spread about the Ithaca program, other districts expressed interest in joining KDT. In the spring of 2010, Trumansburg Central Schools used the KDT Ithaca model for Trumansburg Kids Explore & Discover, which now is under the countywide KDT umbrella. This past spring, Groton Central Schools launched a fifth-grade pilot program, and the district hopes to expand to other grades this year. The Discovery Trail is collaborating with the other three school districts in Tompkins County—Newfield, Lansing and Dryden—to help make KDT available to their students as well.

For more information, visit www.ipei.org or [\[thetrail.org\]\(http://thetrail.org\).](http://www.kidsdiscover-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Terry Byrnes is president of the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI). She wrote this in collaboration with Charlie Trautmann, Frank Robinson and Don Rakow.

Tweedy

Continued from page 10

recordings, including the lovely title track to the 2010 release. As a testament to their work ethic, Wilco has performed more than 1,500 shows in its career. Of course, there's a pragmatic side to touring—bands must play shows to sustain a career playing music.

Taking all of this into account, what really matters most about Jeff Tweedy's music—in whatever outlet it is produced—is that it is deeply moving and reflects life and living and making our way in the world. It is the rare artist that can do this in a way that still reflects joy and even has a bit of a sense of humor. This is a rare opportunity to see an artist of this depth and a venue as intimate as the State Theatre, and it's also a chance to see Jeff interact with a different group of musicians than he normally plays with in Wilco.

Donna's Styling Salon

A Full Service Family Styling Salon

Providing

- Family Hair Care: Perms, Color, Cuts, Straightening, Highlighting
- Manicures & Pedicures
- Sculptured Nails
- Facial Waxing
- Expanded lines of hair, skin & nail care products



Open Tuesday - Saturday
City Quality - Country Prices - Drive a Little, Save a Lot!
Call 589-4344 • 45 Main St., Spencer



comfort.love.respect
national hospice and palliative care month, november 2014

You are a person...not an illness.

Hospice and palliative care bring solutions for people facing serious and life-limiting illness, treating you with the dignity and compassion you deserve. It's never too early to ask about hospice and palliative care.


Hospicare
@ Palliative Care Services of Tompkins County

Learn more at
hospicare.org or call 607.272.0212



CRC'S
WALKATHON
& 5K

NO ONE SHOULD FACE CANCER ALONE

OCT 25 2014

TO REGISTER:

www.crcfl.net
