



For Immediate release:
June 7, 2022

CONTACT:
Kyle Semmel
Communications Manager
(716) 687-1225 ext. 112
ksemmel@wnylc.org

The Land Conservancy Joins Community Partners to Celebrate the Niagara Gorge at GorgeFest

The Land Conservancy is teaming up with New York State Parks, the Niagara River Greenway, the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, the Buffalo Museum of Science, and more than a dozen local environmental organizations for a one-day celebration of the Niagara Gorge and its amazing river. The internationally renowned Niagara Gorge is one of the most iconic places in Western New York. [GorgeFest](#) will celebrate the Niagara Gorge's unique ecosystem and incredible biodiversity with activities that include geology hikes, native plant and animal meet and greets, fossil displays, hands-on activities for the whole family, and much more.

Where: Whirlpool State Park (Niagara Scenic Parkway, Niagara Falls, NY 14303)

When: Saturday, June 18th, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm ET

This event is free and open to the public, but we encourage attendees [register in advance at WNYLC.org](#). It will take place rain or shine except in the event of severe inclement weather.

For the full schedule of activities, please visit our [website](#).

There will be opportunities for kids of all ages to learn about the Niagara Gorge. The Land Conservancy will give an overview of their multi-year restoration project in the Gorge, including a special tour; Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will discuss the Niagara River watershed and the importance of the river's restoration, using hands-on activities for the whole family; NYS Parks and one of their very talented naturalists will open up the Natural History Room and explore the cultural and natural history of the Niagara Gorge, using artifacts and hands-on displays; the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center will teach about the area's rich history and how it connects to the Niagara Gorge's past, present, and future; plus much, much more.

Activities Include:

- Hands-on activities for kids of all ages
- A free Penn Dixie voucher and a real fossil to take home for children who visit the Penn Dixie table
- Special insect release presented by the Buffalo Museum of Science
- A gorge walk with professors and students from Niagara University

- Weather permitting, a raptor release by WNY Raptor and Wildlife Care Center, Inc.

There will also be three guided walks during the event. No advance registration is necessary to join these walks.

Organization Name	Time	Subject
WNY PRISM	11:30-12:15	Invasive species
The Land Conservancy	1:00-1:45	Gorge restoration
Niagara University	2:00-2:45	Gorge geology, amphibian life

Following the event, from 3:00 to 4:30, the Land Conservancy’s Kyle Semmel will join Bill McKeever and Jennifer Hillman at the Stella Niagara Preserve in Lewiston, one of the “secret places” in the newly released update of the book *Secret Places of Western New York: 25 Scenic trails*.

Participating organizations and individuals include: Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Castellani Art Museum, New York State Parks, the Aquarium of Niagara, Niagara University, the Niagara River Greenway, Penn Dixie Fossil Park and Nature Reserve, the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, the Western New York Land Conservancy, WNY PRISM, and WNY Raptor and Wildlife Care, Inc. Participating individuals: David Seide; *Secret Places of Western New York: 25 Scenic Trails* - Book co-authors Jennifer Hillman and Bill McKeever.

All are welcome to attend, but we encourage you to [register in advance at WNYLC.org](https://www.wnylc.org). You may also register in person on the day of the event. During the event, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we encourage you to follow CDC masking and social distancing guidelines.

This event is made possible, in part, thanks to a grant from New York State Sea Grant.

The Western New York Land Conservancy is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for current and future generations. The Land Conservancy envisions a future in which open spaces, working lands, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty are cherished and protected as part of the landscape and character of Western New York. The Land Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and is one of the 1000+ land trusts nationwide, including 87 in New York State. Land trusts have protected over 56 million acres of land. To learn more about the Land Conservancy, visit [wnylc.org](https://www.wnylc.org).