



Offering a place to connect  
with nature, where exploration, contemplation  
and community thrive.

Fall 2023

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You're invited! **Fall Festival**  
**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 1<sup>PM</sup>–5<sup>PM</sup>**

It is that time again. The first Sunday in October is Amberations' Fall Festival. Regulars know it is an event you won't want to miss. From the lively music of Harvey Nusbaum & friends and the marimbas of Kambuyu to the games, animals, artisans, raffles and food - there is something for everyone.

Festivities start at 1 pm at the Otisco Lake Community Center, adjacent to Amberations' barn. Come hungry as there will be lots of great food including chili, hot dogs, apple crisp, ice cream, baked goods and spanikopita. We always have gluten free and vegan options too.

Our duck race will start at 4:45 pm, immediately following the Kambuyu Marimba Ensemble. Ducks are available on line until the day before and the race will be live streamed for those that can't be there in person.

Our Fall Festival is Amberations largest fund raiser and we offer lots of opportunities to joyfully support us. Whether you buy shirts to gift, choose a duck to race, take a chance on a raffle or just grab a bite to eat, you will support Amberations.

Our duck race is great fun. Prizes are \$100, \$50 and \$25 for first, second and third place with a special prize for the slowest duck. Meet the ducks on our website and choose which one you want to root for, each has their own personality. The first ducks to topple over the falls win. We would like to thank **The Bonadio Group** for sponsoring our Spring Race. If your group or business would like to sponsor our fall event, let us know.

### ***Vendor Spots Available***

As this newsletter goes to print, we still have vendor spots available. We would love to have you set up and sell your wares. Please visit our online store for details.

### ***Duck Race***

To get the first pick of ducks, choose in advance in our online store. Pick based on color, outfit, name, number... Strategy or not, it is all fun!

### ***Volunteer Spotlights***

We so appreciate our volunteers and want to give them a space to share with all of you. In past newsletters, volunteers have told of their experiences with feeding the animals and raking trails. It seems that it has been a while and we have some new volunteers so enjoy what they have to share. As always, if you would like to volunteer, we would love to have you join the team!



LIVE MUSIC

VENDORS

FOOD

CRAFTS

GAMES

RAFFLES

DUCK RACE

AMBERATIONS  
FALL FESTIVAL

2223 Amber Road, Marietta, NY 13110



Sunday, October 1, 2023 • 1-5PM

# *The Magic that is Amberations*

by Jessica Albanese

When I joined the Amberations Board of Directors, I had actually never been there. When I heard about it from others, I was intrigued. Since then, I have visited many times, but it truly wasn't until a recent visit this summer that I discovered what founder, Gloria, calls, "the magic that is Amberations." I took my 3 year old there following a pancake breakfast at the Amber FD. As soon as we finished our delicious pancakes,



Hunter said, "Mommy, can we go see Joe now!?" So we walked across the street, right through the playground that would normally be very difficult for a 3 year old to walk past, through the gate, and back to see Big Joe. We spent two hours there – feeding Joe and the other animals, playing in the sand and the stream, and catching frogs in the pond. Hunter was overjoyed when we pulled out the first frog and then watched it leap out of the net and back into the pond. While we were there, numerous other families and children had happened upon our little piece of paradise and it was awesome watching them discover all the fun that there was to be had. If you haven't had a chance to check it out – the time is now! Hope to see you there soon!

## *Meet Jenny & Zita*

Jenny and Zita Stratton have been volunteer feeders at Amberations since last November. They discovered Amberations through word of mouth when Zita was a baby, 9 years ago, and have been "regulars" ever since. Jenny, Zita and family moved to Marietta full-time in 2022, which made it possible to start volunteering to support the organization they love. Zita's favorite parts of Amberations are playing in the stream and catching frogs and tadpoles in the frog pond. Jenny likes bonding with the goats and Joe and hiking the trails on the hilltop. Both Jenny and Zita enjoy meeting and greeting visitors to the barn and sharing all of the special things that make Amberations unique. When they are not helping out at Amberations, Jenny teaches science at Marcellus High School and Zita is in 4th grade.

*Amberations is a 501 (c-3) not-for-profit organization.*

<p>Amberations 2345 Amber Road Marietta, NY 13110 315.636.7166</p>	<p>info@amberations.org amberations.org facebook.com/Amberations amberations315</p>
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# Student Visit

by Jodi Green

This summer, our Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection middle school and high school students planned summer learning expeditions. These included volunteer opportunities within the city of Syracuse and in the surrounding communities. Exposed to activities and events they may not ordinarily get to experience during the school year, their learning expeditions were wonderfully educational and quite successful. Here, Lincoln, Grant, and HW Smith middle school students – along with their Youth Advocates – and Gordon! shovel buttercups out of the Amberations pasture, carry a plank up the hill to patch part of the trail, and get to know Big Joe a little better.



## ***Notes from the Founder:***

I was recently asked to begin a notes from the founder column for our newsletter and began doing so, but without identifying myself. For those that don't know me, this one will be signed.

While Amberations started as my dream almost 20 years ago, the collective creative efforts of innumerable kindred spirits, far too many to name, has made it what it is.

For years, one of our biggest challenges was to get the word out, to get people to come. We all thought the place special but struggled to define it, to entice people to visit and experience our little slice of paradise. Not any more.

On weekends I often spend hours at the barn. I groom Big Joe, clean his hooves and tend to the little tasks that so easily fall through the cracks (sometimes literally). My heart is continually warmed by the many people that come to see "their Big Joe" and "their goats." I don't think any donkey has ever been so loved or enjoyed such a large extended family. He is probably one of the most spoiled too, judging by all the carrots and apples I've seen him receive. While the barn area enjoys its steady stream of visitors, the upper field area attracts a large canine contingency. The best part is, everyone gets along.

It seems we have succeeded in one portion of our mission, we built it and they came. As you hear of our quest for additional volunteers and even potentially an executive director or program developer, rest assured. We have no desire to grow or change Ambersations in any way that would compromise the integrity of what we have created - a magical place to enjoy the wind and earth and sky without any worries. Our goal is only to establish methods and means to sustain and preserve what we have created.

Thank you all and be kind.

Gloria Wiley



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## Let's Connect

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

- I'm interested in making a one-time donation of \$10/\$25/\$50/\$100/\$\_\_\_\_\_
- I have a physical item that I would like to donate
- I'm interested in volunteering for animal care
- I'm interested in volunteering for groundskeeping/events/other
- I have a skill that I think would help Amberations \_\_\_\_\_
- I'd like to be added to the mailing list (paper/email/both)



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# ***Peace, Comfort & Learning Through Play***

by Mary Zainchowski

Rune (6) and I have been volunteering at Amberations since Rune was a baby, minus the time we lived in Maine. We moved back to the area and couldn't wait to help out again! We used to attend the forest school (OLL) that was at Amberations and, shortly after, learned that volunteering was an option. We have loved it ever since and even made a point to visit the animals at the barn when we were visiting from Maine. It is a place of peace and comfort and I am so glad to have found Amberations. Volunteering gives Rune a sense of responsibility and caring for others. The creek and sand pit are great for learning through play! As a homeschool mom and previous forest school teacher, I am incredibly grateful.

## ***Program Development Coordinator***

With every passing year, Amberations continues to grow and so do our hopes and visions for the future. Improving our facilities, volunteer experiences and providing new educational opportunities while maintaining a sustainable non-profit organization takes leadership. This fall, we will be searching for just the right leader to take Amberations dreams and help make them reality. If you are interested in finding out more about this exciting opportunity to change the lives of many, please email us at [info@amberations.org](mailto:info@amberations.org). You can also keep an eye out on our website for upcoming details.



## ***A New Routine***

by Alicia Stevens

What started as a way to get the kids out of the house, our Wednesday morning routine quickly became a huge subject in our lives. This is our first summer back in New York in 9 years and we are still learning fun things to do with the kids. It's always been harder for me to find things to do during the week and in the morning, so when I saw a Facebook post looking to fill a morning feeding spot on Wednesday it was absolutely perfect.

It's something that my kids, 4 and 2.5, always enjoy and look forward to. Picking a book from the library, feeding the animals an apple, checking the pond for frogs, opening a map to the treasure box, filling our boots with sand, washing our hands and feet in the creek, checking the tomatoes in the garden. It's more for *us* than it is for Big Joe and the goats. It's a place to enjoy and a place to be shared.

We moved from Alaska in the fall and feel best when we are outside. The tantrums seem to melt away in the fresh air and there's always something new and exciting to discover at Amberations.

## ***The Fairies Have Been Busy***

Words can't express our appreciation for the efforts of Bill and Susan Reynolds. Everyone is in awe of how nice they've made our barn site and of the prolific garden that they created. We are so thankful they have adopted us.

In Susan's words:

“

It's a labor of love for us at Amberations. Lovely Frog Willow pond, Joe and friends, the birds...are all gifts we get to enjoy while we 'play' in the dirt.

Having families enjoy the garden is exciting; hearing a child yell: '...look mom - look what I found...' gives us the same smile our own children have given us.

We're thankful for Amberations having so much to offer - for everyone.

”

Links to things mentioned in the newsletter.



SCAN ME



Marge Newton

## **HELP WANTED**

October 1<sup>st</sup>  
10am-6pm  
(any or all hours)

- Setup
- Serving food
- Cleanup
- General assistance for the Fall Festival

direction/guidance provided

## ***Fall Festival Music***

### **Nuclear Ukulele**

Nuclear Ukulele includes Bob Lyna on guitar, Harvey Nusbaum on lead guitar and Richard Curry on washtub bass. They cover a panoply of styles like old time jazz, classic country, and pop. They have a combined music experience somewhere north of 150 years. Their sound gravitates to the rock 'n' roll side of folk-rock.

### **The Bobcats**

The BobCats play a mix of originals written by Bob Elfenbein and tasty covers of a wide variety of musical styles. Featuring vocals by Jenny O'Hara with 3 part harmony. Done on bass, rhythm and lead guitars, violin and mandolin.

### **Morris and the Hepcats**

A rockabilly trio! Well known to folks who follow the blues scene in CNY. They are regulars at Shifty's and area blues festivals. Catch some of their live videos on Facebook at facebook.com/morris.tarbell

### **Kambuyu Marimba Ensemble**

Kambuyu Marimba Ensemble of Syracuse has been together since

2004 and has played for Amberations almost that long. They are a tradition at the Fall Festival and once you hear their sound, you never forget it.

The roots of the music they play comes from the Shona people of Zimbabwe. Seven marimbas of four sizes are usually played in the arrangements for this music: a bass, baritone, two tenors, and three sopranos. Plus percussion accompaniment. They sing and the music is both simple and complex at the same time.



"...and all the angels  
pray for peace"

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**Join us**  
for our  
**Fall Festival**  
Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>  
1 pm-5 pm  
See front page and inside  
for details

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