

Trail Events

2-7
Winter Trail Day

4-18 & 4-25
Earth Day Clean-Ups

5-17
Journey for Sight 5K

See Page 6

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Let us Hear from YOU!

Do you have an interesting story about how your group or organization is using the Greenway? Please send it our way! Visit our website (fogvg.org) and click on "E-Mail Us" or mail to FOGVG PO Box 42, Mt. Morris, NY 14510

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Greenway Trail

David Schmitthenner, 18, of Rush, NY recently completed a picnic and rest area at the intersection of the Genesee Valley Greenway and Lehigh trails about two miles south of Scottsville, NY. Dave, who conceived and managed the construction of the rest area as an Eagle Scout project, has been a member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 334 in Rush for 12 years.

With the East River Road entrance to the Lehigh Trail only a mile from his house, Dave's family has biked and jogged on this trail many times. His scout troop has also enjoyed several bike hikes along both trails.

Dave stated, "My parents often run the three-mile round trip to the Greenway trail as their main exercise. They noticed, and I agreed, that the scenic intersection of the two trails would be an ideal spot for a rest or a picnic." He met with Warren Wallace, a director of the Mendon Foundation, who helps with many boy scout projects. With the enthusiastic and generous support of Mr. Wallace, Dave set to work.



It's a tough job, but these fellows can handle it!

The project took about five weeks from start to finish. First, with the help of Warren Wallace, the area was cleared of brush and "boxed out". Next, Dave and several others from his troop dug holes and poured concrete pillars in the ground which would serve to anchor the heavy-duty chains required to secure the tables to the site. Owner Dick Ash of Valley Sand and Gravel generously donated a huge load of gravel and had it delivered the same day at no charge!

Dave then planned construction of heavy-duty picnic tables and his friends Matt Sluberski and Zack Reibsome helped build them. One was designed with a two-foot extension and no bench so it would be wheelchair accessible. Lowes, Home Depot, and Matthews and Fields donated lumber, with donations of hardware coming from various businesses and individuals.

On a fifth trip to the site and with the help of fellow scouts, Dave spread the gravel, placed the tables on it and secured them to the chains. As a finishing touch, he and his brother Joe (also an Eagle Scout) installed three bluebird houses that Dave's cub scout troop had made seven years earlier!

Dave's father Hans remarked,

"Dave gained a great respect for planning and managing a project like this. It was a lot more work than he thought it would be, but very rewarding. He also learned just how generous and helpful some people can be."



Dave Schmitthenner (L) and some members of his work crew.

He met at the site with David Herring and others from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. These discussions yielded many helpful ideas including suggestions for where to obtain gravel and lumber.

President's Letter



HELP US SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT THE GREENWAY!

Let us place YOUR copy of future newsletters in public places so we can reach a larger audience.

Since the newsletter is now available on our website, you can opt to receive your copy electronically, which will enable us to pass your printed copy along to someone new *at no additional cost to the organization!*

Please e-mail us at fogvg@frontiernet.net if you would be willing to receive your newsletter via the Internet.

Thank you.

Good News!

DEC has completed the installation of two bridges in the Black Creek – Houghton section of the Greenway. A third bridge is in hand for installation next year. These important bridges open up several miles of continuous trail. Read more about it on Page 5.

More Good News !!

FOGVG received a State Trail Worker Award from American Trails, a national non-profit organization that to create and protect America's network of interconnected trails. This is great recognition of the Greenway and our organization's efforts to develop a first-class facility. An article with more information about this award appears on Page 4.

The early winter is an opportunity to get out and enjoy snow-driven activities- and no mosquitoes. Perhaps I'll see you there. A joyous holiday and great new year to all.

Ned Holmes

See a PROBLEM on the Greenway? Let Enforcement Officers Know!

Greenway law enforcement is provided by State Park Police and State DEC Environmental Conservation Officers and Forest Rangers, working together and with state and local police forces. These officers are eager to address any issues or concerns, but cannot do so without the public's help. According to DEC Environmental Conservation Officer Lieutenant Peter Barton, "If you have specific problems, let us know. Then we'll detail patrols to address them."

The more information that can be supplied to the officers, the better they can address an issue. According to Major David Page of the New York State Park Police, "For the most effective response to Greenway problems, please gather and record information about a violation and relay the complaint directly and as soon as possible to a law enforcement agency. If it's an emergency, call 911."

Monroe County & Letchworth State Park
NYS Park Police
585-658-4692

Livingston County
NYS Environmental Conservation Officers
M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m — 585-226-6706
After hours — 877-457-5680

Wyoming and Allegany Counties
NYS DEC Forest Rangers
716-372-0645

NYS Environmental Conservation Officers
716-851-7000

To Contact Greenway Law Enforcement Officers

In an Emergency — Call 911

FINGER LAKES TRAIL

Over 850 miles of hiking trails in the southern part of NYS

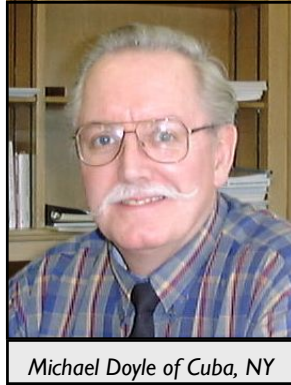
For maps, membership, or other info, visit www.fingerlakestrail.org

Finger Lakes Trail Conference
6111 Visitor Center Rd.
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
585-658-9320

The unlawful use of motor vehicles, especially ATV's, is prohibited on the Greenway. Help spread the word to those who may not be aware. *If it has a motor and isn't a snowmobile, it CANNOT BE RIDDEN on the Genesee Valley Greenway.*

Meet your new Board Members

As a youngster in Cuba, NY, **Mike Doyle** walked the Canal pathway toward Belfast many times. He has built or reconstructed several houses and has an interest in automotive restoration. Currently he is a member of Cuba Friends of Architecture (CFA) and serves as its president. The CFA is interested in protecting the natural beauty of the area and areas of historic and/or architectural importance. CFA has a natural interest in the connections to history provided through the Greenway. As part of that focus, it is in the process of saving and reconstructing Cuba's Genesee Valley Canal Railroad Freight Depot. Mike says his interest in the Greenway was re-inspired through that effort.



Michael Doyle of Cuba, NY

Mike holds a Doctoral Degree in Technology Education from West Virginia University and is Program Manager for Mathematics, Science, and Technology for Cattaraugus Allegheny BOCES. He and his wife Connie, an elementary teacher at Cuba-Rushford Central School, have been exploring what could lead to the reconstruction of the Greenway between mile 89 and 90. Together, they developed a NYS Transportation Enhancement Grant application for its reconstruction.

Mike remarks, "I hope to help generate renewed interest in the Greenway around the Cuba area and support the efforts of FOGVG in the region."

David Shaw of Rochester started using the trail for biking a few years ago. He was searching for an easy way to get out of the city and found that the Greenway enabled him to enjoy nature more fully. He joined FOGVG in 2007 after learning it is the only organization that solely supports the Greenway. He attended Alfred State College and RIT, both near the ends of the trail. He has lived at both ends of the Genesee River Valley, working mostly in the Human Services field. He enjoys bicycling, hiking, photography, amateur radio, and camping to name a few of many interests.



David Shaw on the trail.

David states, "It is my hope to support the mission and goals of the FOGVG by serving as a board member. It is my belief that the canal, railroad, and now Greenway are important to the history, economy, and well-being of the Genesee Valley and all who live in it. It would be wonderful to see the Greenway be as successful as other greenways across the globe."

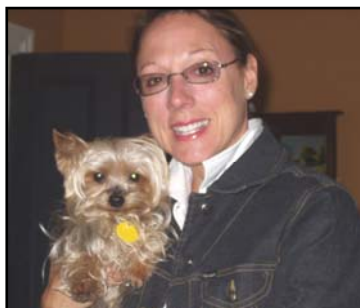
Stephanie Spittal has worked with the history and interpretive department at Letchworth State Park for many years. She has been active with the Finger Lakes Trail Conference and Friends of Letchworth State Park and became aware of the Genesee Valley Canal and the Greenway through those relationships. Stephanie first joined FOGVG many years ago and shortly thereafter began leading hikes along the Oakland Locks on National Trails Day.

Besides providing interpretive programming at the park, she has helped maintain park trails and sections of the Finger Lakes trail. She uses the Greenway for walking and biking, and looks forward to seeing more of it as part of her board service. Stephanie comments, "My main interest in the Greenway is the history of the canal and railroad. I believe my background in that area will lead to positive contributions as a board member."



Stephanie Spittal stares soulfully into the eyes of a Black Rat Snake during a program at

Elizabeth Welch grew up on a farm next to the Greenway on Telephone Road and has always been interested in the outdoors and preservation. She and her husband moved back to Livingston County to pursue their dream of becoming stewards of an historical property--they are owners of the Charlton B & B Inn in Avon, NY and a new Business Sponsor of the FOGVG (*Thank You!*). Earlier this year, Elizabeth and family members walked the Greenway from York Landing to the old family farmstead. They plan future trips for birding, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, biking and rambling. She enjoys walks with her Yorkshire Terrier; collecting American antiques; and gardening. She has been a member of several horticultural and preservation groups, and other non-profit organizations.



Elizabeth Welch and friend Wally

"I would like to facilitate increased use of the Greenway at Telephone Road, perhaps establishing public transportation to and from certain entrances," says Elizabeth. "As an Occupational Therapist I hope to facilitate intergenerational use of the trail, perhaps using the nearby schools and youth organizations. I'd also like to work with local garden clubs to obtain natural flower seeds for trailside plantings. FOGVG seems to be an ideal association for my family as we begin restoring, renovating and preserving Charlton Farm."

FOGVG Receives State Trail Workers Award

At the American Trails' 19th Annual National Trails Symposium in Little Rock, AK, the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway (Ned Holmes, President) was recognized as a 2008 State Trail Worker Awards winner.

The award was announced at the celebration banquet titled "On the Path of Excellence". Through the National Trails Awards program, American Trails recognizes exemplary people who are working across America to create a national system of trails to meet the recreation, health, and travel needs of all Americans. American Trails presents a Trail Advocacy and Trail Worker award to one individual or organization from each state.

Fran Gotscik, Director of Programs and Policy for Parks & Trails New York and former Executive Director of the FOGVG, attended the symposium and received the award on behalf of the friends. Fran remarked, "This is a great honor for Ned and the Friends of the Greenway. I was so pleased when they announced the award and flashed a photo of the Genesee Valley Greenway on the big screen in a room full of trail professionals and advocates from across the nation. We might not have a Greenway if it weren't for Ned promoting the idea with the state in the 1980s and again in the early 90s. For his long years of dedication and all the considerable accomplishments and ongoing commitment of the Friends, this is truly a very well-deserved recognition."

The following appeared on the American Trails website:

"The Genesee Valley Greenway is a 90-mile public, multi-use trail and natural and historic resource corridor that follows the route of the Genesee Valley Canal and the Pennsylvania Railroad. Like thousands of other abandoned tow-paths and rail beds across the country, the Genesee Valley Greenway provides opportunities for public recreation and an off-road link to communities, parks, and other trails and attractions in the region.

The Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway is governed by a 14 member Board of Directors composed of individuals living within the Greenway region. The board meets regularly with DEC and OPRHP to discuss issues and capital projects. Included on the board are the chairpersons of local committees that provide maintenance of sections of trail. Over the past three years (2005-07) it is estimated that more than 80 volunteers spent approximately 2000 hours each year clearing vegetation from the trail and historic structures, mowing, picking up trash, meeting to discuss trail planning and management, and organizing events. Volunteers also donated the use of their equipment and the necessary gas and oil as well as their mileage to reach their adopted sections."



Friends Hold Annual Meeting & Dish-to-Pass Supper

by Joan Schumaker

On Sunday, November 9, Friends gathered at Letchworth State Park. For some afternoon exercise, Park Naturalist Doug Bassett offered a two-mile walk to the Park's largest tree, starting at the Sycamore (#22) Trailhead on River Road on the East side of the park. Another option was for a shorter hike in the main portion of the Park. However, very cold weather discouraged participation in these events and everyone elected to gather at the warm and cozy Conference Center at 4:30 PM.

Attendees were treated to a Power Point program titled "Exploring Letchworth State Park, A Journey Through Time" presented by Tom Cook. Mr. Cook is a retired history teacher, Letchworth State Park Historian/author and co-webmaster of www.letchworthparkhistory.com. The program took the audience on a trip through the Park's history, from the days of Sehghunda and the Native Americans to the modern day Park. Tom, a knowledgeable, energetic and interesting speaker, provided a most enter-

taining and informative program that was enjoyed by all.

After the program, everyone was hungry so we went directly to the dish-to-pass supper with a wide variety of delicious offerings. We could choose from Elk Stew (with all the trimmings), a Woodcock/rice dish, Chicken Tetrazzini, Macaroni & Cheese, Split Pea Soup, a variety of salads, strawberry desert, cookies and more. We had a modest number of Friends who stayed for dinner, but enough to fill the dinning table and make a huge dent in the food.

A brief meeting was held during dinner where members reviewed the year's activities, learned of latest Greenway developments, and were made aware of new board members. Of the new board members, only Elizabeth Welch was able to attend, but Stephanie Spittal, Michael Doyle and David Smith will be available to meet members at future Greenway events. If you missed this event, plan now for next year by saving Sunday, November. 8, 2009.

What's Happening on the Trail



▲ The 43' bridge south of Route 305 ▲
▼ 45' bridge near Gleason Hill Rd. ▼



NYSDEC Region 9

In August and September the Region 9 crew mowed all of the accessible sections of the trail in Allegany County.

Two more bridges were installed in November: the 43' bridge south of Route 305 and the 45' bridge near Gleason Hill Road. The 70' bridge north of Route 305 will be installed next spring.

The bridge near Gleason Hill Road connects two already-open sections of trail. The bridge south of Route 305 will allow the opening of the 3-½ miles of trail between Route 305 and Tibbetts Hill Road, once the work on the bridge approaches is completed. (The remaining work is dependent on the weather and site conditions, and may not be completed until next spring.)

Membership News Winter 2008

The FOGVG membership year is from September 1 through August 31. **A complete list of 2008-2009 members to date is contained on this page. If your name is not here, we have yet to hear from you.** Some very familiar names are still missing from our list and we hope to hear from you soon.

If you have yet to join or renew your membership for 2008-2009, please use the enclosed membership envelope and become a Friend of the Genesee Valley Greenway. If you missed renewing last year or in past years, please consider a generous membership level at this time.

If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, please download and return a membership form from our web site.

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS FOR YOUR MUCH-NEEDED SUPPORT.

Business Sponsors

They support us, so please support them.

Charlton B & B Inn

310 East Main St., Avon, NY 14414

Livingston Associates

80 River Rd., Scottsville, NY 14546

Park Ave Bike Shop

2900 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14618

Donations: Ned & Louise Holmes, Harry Howe, James & Susan Knauer.

New Members: Charlton B&B Inn, Avon; Michael Doyle, Cuba; Fred & Melinda Franzwa, Rochester; Harry Howe, Geneseo; Frank Ross Kuhn, Scottsville; Fran Ludwig, Nunda; Rockville Lake Cottage Association; Gary & Karen Wenzel, Geneseo; John & Gail Yunker, Wayland.

Returning Members - Welcome Back: Robb & Nancy Adams, George Briggs, Pat Kennedy, Livingston County IDA, Terry Lowell, Justin Thaine, Mary Michael.

Renewing Members: Joan Armbruster, Don & Karen Ash, Marcia Ayers, Harold Bauer, Henry Baxter, Louise Bickel, Radford Brown, Thomas Burkman, Charles Burometto, Jr., Michael S. Buskus, Tom & Barbara Byrnes, Bob & Lois DeRoo, Carl & Sonya Christensen, Gary & Linda Cioria, MaryDaniel & Robert Cooper, Susan Czapranski, William & Lois Davis, Bob & Lois DeRoo, Michele McCall & Amy Stanley, Jamie & Missy Dynarski, George VanArsdale & Elizabeth Osta, Betty J. Erdmann, Donald Fernberg, Robert Frazer, Carol L. George-Williams, Coleridge Gill, Peter & Luane Haggerty, Lynn Hamilton, Betty & Bill Harmon, Myra Herlihy, Timothy & Julie Hewitt, The Hollinger Family, Ned Holmes, Peter & Sally Humphrey, Larry Kilbury, Mary & Dave L. Kipp, Patricia Kirwin, James & Susan Knauer, Keith & Judy Kroon, Kimberly La Mendola-Driscoll, Quentin & Libby Llop Family, Tony D'Imperio & Louise Michaud, Lakeland Rovers, Brian & Karen Managan, Jean Mc Master, David Mc Nitt, Sandy & Jill Miller, Lucy & Leonard Miragua, J. Robert Muller, James N. Mullin, Davies Nagel, Elizabeth O'Mara, Ric Perry, Pete & Sue Piraino Family, Peggy Rosenthal, Larry & Elizabeth Russell, Ronald & Linda Sallade, Joan Schumaker, Maurice Seager, Larry & Joy Seaman, David A. Shaw, George & Kathryn Shaw, William Shearing, David & Elizabeth Smith, Stephanie Spittal, John & Geri Stanton, Robert L. Stear, Hans Strasser, David & Grace Strong, Irene Szabo, Gerald & Alice Thompson, Dave & Kathy Wells, Tania Werbizky & Brad Edmondson, Robert Wheeler, Bill White, L. Chandler Whitford, Gerald Wildenberg & Carol Freeman, Robert A. Wood, Charles Woolever, Greg Wysocki, Robert Younger, Sarisa & Leon Zoghlin, Frank Zwemer & Laura Brewer.

Friends of the Genesee Valley



Greenway

P.O. Box 42
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
Phone: 585-658-2569

fogvg@frontiernet.net

Visit our web site!
WWW.FOGVG.ORG

Board of Directors

Edward Holmes	President
Elizabeth Welch	Vice President
Susan Knauer	Secretary
Joan Schumaker	Treasurer (Nunda-Portage)

Michael Doyle	At-Large
Coleridge Gill	At-Large
David a. Shaw	At-Large
John Stanton	At-Large
Steph Spittal	At-Large

Local Committee Chairs

Vacant	Monroe Co.
Vacant	York-Caledonia - Leicester
Vacant	Mt. Morris
Vacant	Genesee Falls -Fillmore
Vacant	Belfast-Houghton -Caneadea
Vacant	Cuba -New Hudson
Charles F. Struble	Hinsdale

Do you live in one of the above communities along the Greenway? The Board needs input and assistance from residents. Would you be interested in representing your community on the board as a Local Chair? If so, please contact us for details.

Would you like to receive the *Greenway News* earlier and in color?
If yes, send your name and e-mail address to fogvg@frontiernet.net

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2009 Greenway and Related Events

Sat. February 7, Winter Trail Day: 10 AM - 2 PM at Triple Creek Golf Course, Rt. 408, north of the Village of Nunda. Enjoy the Greenway on snowshoes or skis - an effort is being made to have instructors and equipment available for you to try. Refreshments served. Everyone welcome to this free event. 585-658-2569 / www.fogvg.org.

Mon. April 6, FOGVG Board Meeting: 6 PM at FOGVG Office, 6111 Visitor Center Rd., Mt. Morris, NY 14510

Sat. April 18, Earth Day Clean-Up, Greenway South: Save the date and watch for details for work party/food in Allegany County. 585-658-2569 www.fogvg.org

Sat. April 25, Earth Day Clean-Up, Greenway North: Save the date and watch for details for work parties/food in Livingston and Monroe Counties. Info: 585-658-2569 or check: www.fogvg.org

May 8-10, Finger Lakes Trail Conference Annual Meeting/Spring Outing: At the 6,000 acre Frost Valley YMCA campus, nestled in the beautiful Forever Wild Forest

Preserve of the southern Catskill Mountains, hosted by the Binghamton-based Triple Cities Hiking Club. Register by 2-5-09. 585-658-9320 / www.fingerlakestrail.org

Sun. May 17, Annual "Journey for Sight" 5K Walk-a-Thon - Belfast, NY: Sponsored by the Allegany County Lions Clubs, the route is yet to be determined but often includes sections of the Greenway. Save the date and watch for registration info at fogvg.org Ron Abraham,; (716) 498-8438

May 29 - 31, 51st Annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage: An outdoor learning experience at Allegany State Park organized by four regional Audubon Societies. Info: www.allegany-nature-pilgrimage.org

Mon. June 1, FOGVG Board Meeting: 6 PM at FOGVG Office, 6111 Visitor Center Rd., Mt. Morris, NY

Saturday, June 6, National Trail Day Ceremony/Hike - Dedication of New Greenway Bridges in Allegany County: Save the date and watch for details. Info: Call 585-658-2569 or check: www.fogvg.org