



Greenway News

Spring 2008

FOGVG

Major Events

**National Trails Day
Canal History Hike**
June 7

Guided Bike Rides
June 14 & August 9

**Guided Interpretive
Hikes in Monroe County**
June 15, July 13, August 10

Horseback Ride
August 10

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Become A Trail Adopter!

It's easy and rewarding to adopt a section of the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail, and you don't have to do it alone. Help us get (and keep) the trail in tip-top shape. Start by visiting www.fogvg.org to read the Adopt-a-Trail agreement. If you need a copy mailed to you, call 585-658-2569 or email fogvg@frontiernet.net

One Enthusiast's Story

Marilee and Joe Patterer of Black Creek, NY first appeared at a Greenway event in November of 2007. They took part in the FOGVG hike, potluck dinner, and annual meeting in Belfast, NY. Little did we know that it was the beginning of what is becoming a strong and highly supportive relationship for our organization.

At that meeting, Marilee indicated that she was interested in forming a hiking group in the southernmost area of the trail. A few ideas for getting started were bandied about and not long thereafter she was hanging posters and meeting with new folks in her area interested in hiking.

In February, the Friends learned that a group had indeed been formed, and that hikes had taken place with more planned. In April, the Patterers became Trail

Adopters for a 3-mile section of trail running from Tibbets Hill Rd. to Rt 305 in the towns of New Hudson and Belfast.

Ned Holmes, FOGVG President, remarks, "We can only wonder what additional good will come of this new relationship, and are so grateful for the support and enthusiasm of Marilee, Joe, and the new Southern Tier Greenway Hikers."

An excerpt from Marilee's hiking journal:

"On one beautiful sunny Saturday in crisp air, Valerie and Rich Perkins, Ron Abraham and I plus our three dogs walked 3.6 miles of snowmobile-groomed Greenway Trail going south from GLF Road in Belfast, NY to Gleason Hill Road. Here we passed several old canal remnants including the old canal warehouse on Hughes Street in Belfast. It was great to breathe the fresh air and get exercise with fellow hikers.

"On another very cold day, we parked at the Oramel Fire Station parking lot and walked up Crawford Road a short distance to the entrance for the Greenway Trail. As the temperature was just above zero, we walked north towards Caneadea. We walked on the old DOT substa-

tion area and gazed upon the beautiful view of the Genesee River. In the distance, one could see the historic 1800s steel lattice bridge on East Hill Road. We turned around just south of Caneadea where the Rt. 19 bridge goes over the Rushford Lake Outlet Creek. It's here where Valerie dreams of having a small picnic area with information about the trail and the Caneadea

area. She is hoping to have an organized walk to raise funds to develop the picnic area.

"God graced us with another beautiful crisp day to hike 4.2 miles from the trail entrance at GLF Road in Belfast to Valerie and Rich's house north of Caneadea. Ron is always so informative about the trail, wildlife, tree, other recreational opportunities, and other environmental issues. Hannah, my

smooth collie, loves walking with Valerie and Rich's two dogs. It is such a treat for her. Abby, a Jack Russell, has such a great time running to and fro---so much energy. If only I could siphon off some of the energy!

"One Saturday, we deviated from our usual Greenway hikes as Rich led us on a very vigorous 3 mile bushwhacking hike in six+ inches of snow in rising elevation in a beautiful woods behind his house. As we walked, Rich pointed out some of his efforts at forest management in the woods as well as another person's woods that was clear cut. Some of the way, he guided us on a snowmobile trail which made for much easier walking. We reached Sandhill road and hiked on it for a short distance until we came to the hiking trail around Moss Lake. The big turtles that people feed bread, etc. when they should not, were nowhere to be found. They were enjoying their long winter's rest. We could hear them snoring. Ha Ha! It was snowy and windy as we hiked the lake trail with some pristine woods on the left and the lake on the right. We hiked back to Rich's house and rested after our workout, replenishing our energy with a trail mix snack."



Marilee (L) and friends on the Trail

President's Letter



The weather this spring has given all us a jump start on enjoying the Greenway; the number of folks I've seen is a testimony to the importance that people place on the Greenway.

Trail maintenance is off to a flying start with two clean up days this past month. Thanks to our terrific volunteers in Chili area and those in the Nunda area, the Greenway is looking good.

FOGVG has been asked by the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to participate in a state-wide effort to evaluate trail use. I view this as a great opportunity to develop much needed information on the Genesee Valley Greenway that will assist us in project development. Six boxes for survey forms will be placed at locations along the trail (see Page 3). These boxes will require periodic checking and replenishment by volunteers living nearby. We are also seeking a handful of volunteers to conduct a trail count. If you can devote some time to this project, please let us know.

Hope to see you on the trail.
Ned Holmes

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.

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.*

Please Help us Gather Trail Usage Data

According to officials at the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), little economic data is available regarding the use of multi-use rail trails and other historic corridor trails in New York State. Without this information they don't know with any certainty who New York trail users are; where they come from; and where, and on what, they spend their money while engaging in trail-related activities.

To address this issue, OPRHP will be gathering this information via a user survey on eight different trails between June 1 and July 31. They have asked that the Genesee Valley Greenway be one of the participating trails.

The survey will yield several conclusions about the demographics of trail users, how they are using the trails, and what expenditures are associated with trail use. This information can be used (both by the state and by the Friends) to obtain increased financial support for improvements and enhancements.

We're so fortunate to have this opportunity! The Friends can benefit significantly from being able to tell local public officials that our trail is a valuable community resource, that it contributes positively to the local economy and, most importantly, that we have data to prove it.

OPRHP has supplied us with 1500 survey forms, each with a prepaid business reply envelope. They have provided clear plastic trail boxes with "Trail Survey-Please Take One" printed on them which we will post at specific points on the trail. They've also given us specific instructions on how the surveys should be distributed, and on how to conduct a trail count, which requires a total of 15

hours of volunteer time (one hour at a time) at a given site over the two-month period. Note that a number of volunteers may work to complete the 15 hours at a given location.

In exchange for our support and participation, they will tabulate and analyze data collected on the Greenway and provide a usage and economic impact report for our trail.

How Can You Help?

First, if you see a survey form posted where you access the trail, please complete and return it in the envelope provided. The survey will also be posted on our website at www.fogvg.org. Please complete a survey only after you've hiked a section of trail and complete only one survey for this study.

Second, we need folks to check and replenish survey boxes at the following locations twice a week for 8 weeks. Reading north to south, they are:

Lock #2
Lehigh Valley Trail Junction
York Landing
Mt. Morris at Rt. 408
Oakland Locks
Belfast

Finally, we need a number of volunteers who will simply count trail users on one-hour shifts during the sampling period. This count data will enable OPRHP to estimate the total economic contribution of our trail to the area. Do you and a friend have an hour, or perhaps several hours, to invest? Please call 585-658-2569 or contact FOGVG at fogvg@frontiernet.net.

Spotlight on.... *The Canal Society of New York State*



The Canal Society of New York State (CSNYS) brings together canal enthusiasts from across the state to learn about the history, development and on-going activities associated with the numerous canal systems found throughout the state. Its activities include: the protection of historic canal sites and features; support for the revitalization of canals; the development of canal ports, recreational facilities, canal trails and other related amenities; and the presentation or interpretation of canal history and related topics.

Membership is open to individuals interested in learning more about the history of canals and supporting the revitalization of canals. Benefits include access to individuals with extensive knowledge of canals and the opportunity to participate in any of the field trips to canal sites throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe that are sponsored and run by the canal society.

The next meeting of the Society will be a three-day field trip to the Oswego Canal beginning on June 13, 2008. For further information visit www.canalsnys.org or call Michelle Biehman, executive director, at 315-730-4495.

End-to-Enders...

Our open invitation for members to share end-to-end adventures yielded 16 handwritten pages from Joseph "Bob" Muller of Rochester, NY. Bob writes...

"Thank you inviting me to tell my story about hiking End-to-End on the Genesee Valley Greenway trail. I'm now 87 years old and appreciate this opportunity to share my experience. I have tried to include documentation on each and every experience I encountered and for sure, I have written a lengthy, interesting account. Hopefully, I'm the first person of record to complete an End-to-End hike of the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail.

"My membership in the Genesee Valley Greenway began around 1992, with encouragement by my trail-hiking friend Irene Szabo. We'd become friends through work parties connecting open parts of the Finger Lakes Trail since early 1980.

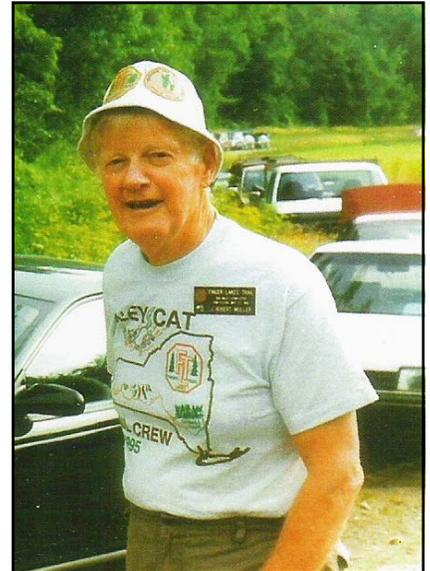
"At that time, Irene, Fran Gotcsik, Joan Schumaker, Lois Judd and others were on the Genesee Valley Greenway Board of Directors. Irene invited me to attend some of the GVG meetings at which some landowners were present. Conducted by Fran Gotcsik, the meetings were very informative. I recall sitting beside me was one of the younger monks from the Trappist Monastery of the Genesee in Piffard. After the meeting, we enjoyed delicious "Bring a Dish to Pass" foods and a guest speaker showing pictures of the old railroad and canal prism in the area.

"At that time, Irene Szabo and I were active members of the Finger Lakes trail Conference. She would call me on the phone and say, "Hey, Bob. Want to play trail?"

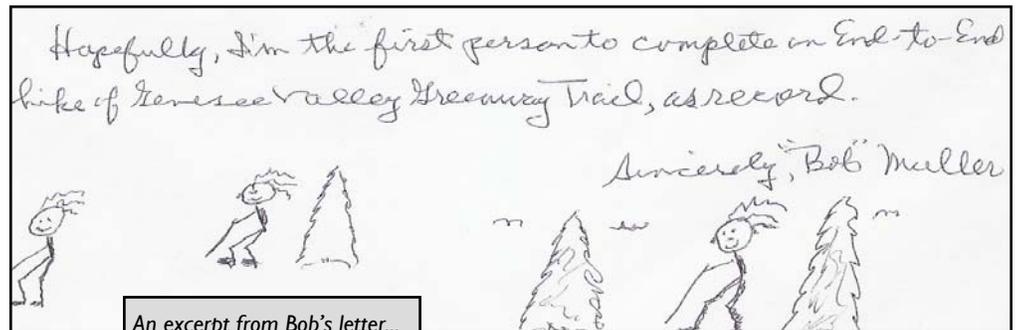
So, both of us would join work parties on the trail with great satisfaction and camaraderie.

"It was soon after I had completed my 544-mile End-to-End hikes (in segments) as Finger Lakes Trail hiker #5 on May 27th 1991 that Irene Szabo teased me saying, "Hey Bob, now you should hike the Genesee Valley Greenway (as no one has done it yet) ---- You'd be #1!"

"And so, I began my solo hikes in summer of 1991 walking, and at times bushwhacking, the GVG prism from Rochester to Hinsdale, NY."



Joseph "Bob" Muller



An excerpt from Bob's letter...

Read the complete account of Bob's hikes, including anecdotes about the people, animals, and vistas he encountered at www.fogvg.org.

Are you a GVG End-to-Ender?

We'd love to hear from you with stories and photos of your experience. Drop us a line at fogvg@frontiernet.net.

CHECK THE LABEL!

If you have yet to join or renew your membership (check your mail label for expiration date), please use the enclosed membership envelope and become a Friend of the Genesee Valley Greenway.

What's Happening on the Trail

NYSDEC Region 8 & OPRHP Genesee Region

Volunteer trail adopters Pat and Jim Tindale and Carolyn Dehority, along with Tom Ryther from the Genesee Land Trust, spent a day in May trimming trees and picking up trash along Scottsville Rd. Much time was spent at the Brook Rd lot clearing under and around trees to facilitate mowing, picking up trash, raking stones in the parking lot and filling in pot-holes. Many thanks to this small but very dedicated group of volunteers for their good work.

NYSDEC Region 9

Work continues at Rockville Lake. The bridge has been installed, and the DEC Operations Crew will soon begin work on the approaches. Below are two images of the prefabricated bridge installed across the former Rockville Lake spillway.



How Things Get Done...

April 30: *(Letter to FOGVG, forwarded to DEC)* I'm the Caneadea township Historian and of course my main priority is preserving our local history. There are the remains of a set of locks from the Genesee Valley Canal. However, it is in very bad shape and with so much growth of brush and all it's hard to find when foliage is full. The large rocks are tumbling. My wish is to see the brush trimmed away and the lock assembled to some extent of the original, if possible. Also there is water in the canal, and debris has been dumped in there making an eyesore. Is there a way that we could work together cleaning this up? We are not a Historical society with lots of members; mainly me and some interested volunteers that are willing to help me out with various worthwhile projects. Hoping we can do this. It is Caneadea's 200th birthday this year and a lot is planned. I'd love to be able to announce that one more item from our past is preserved for the future. Thank you, Gert

++++

Hi Gert. On Wednesday I had our Operations crew go out and clear the trees and brush away from the lock (Lock 71). It's easy to see now, and the tree roots won't be doing any more damage to the lock. I don't think there's much we can do to reassemble the lock - most of the stones remaining are the large, irregular stones that were used to fill in behind the walls. As with most of the Genesee Valley Canal locks, the walls were dismantled and the stones used for other purposes - box culverts for the railroad, front steps in Rockville (!), etc... We dragged most of the wood and large limbs away. Still a few small branches that could be picked up. I didn't notice a lot of debris, just one old tire in the lock itself. A few beer cans, etc., along the trail and one spot that looked like an old farm dump. A few things could be picked up there to make the rest of it less noticeable. Of course, there's plenty of honeysuckle that can be cut back. Ron Abraham, DEC

++++

May 17: Mornin', Thank you so very much for the work by the locks. Have passed your note along to the Supervisor so that everyone knows we got help for asking. Very much appreciated. Gert.

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Ron, The work your DEC Operations Crew did at the locks was much appreciated. You mentioned that there was some trash near the locks that could be cleaned up using a work party and that it would not take long. Perhaps we can interest our new FOGVG members in the area to plan a work session. Thanks again for your help. Joan Schumaker, FOGVG

Interested in helping with the Caneadea Locks clean-up effort? Call 585-658-2569 or email fogvg@frontiernet.net

Membership News

The FOGVG membership year is from September 1 through August 31. **2007-2008 members to date have been listed in the November 2007 and Winter 2008 newsletters or are included below. We even have several early renewals for 2009-2009.** New members, returning members and continuing members - **WE SINCERELY THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US.**

If you have yet to join or renew your membership (check label for expiration date), please use the enclosed membership envelope and become a Friend of the Genesee Valley Greenway. New memberships received after June 1 will be recorded as 2008-2009 memberships.

New Members: Craig Braack, Almond ; Mary R. Gulesano, Mt. Morris, Timothy & Julie Hewitt, Kennedy; Marge & Frank Kelley, Mt. Morris; Roger Kirwan, Nunda; Lakeview Bed & Breakfast, Caneadea.

Returning Members - Welcome Back: Paul & Cathy Kane, Peter Wybron

Renewing Members: Vincent Burroughs, Mark Getzin, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Hayes, Judy Hendee, Davies Nagle

Early Renewals for 2008-2009: Harold Bauer, Thomas Burkman, Peter & Sally Humphrey, Larry Kilbury, Hans Strasser

Donations: Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc.- Genesee Valley Chapter, Joan Schumaker

For 2008, we've added a new level of membership.

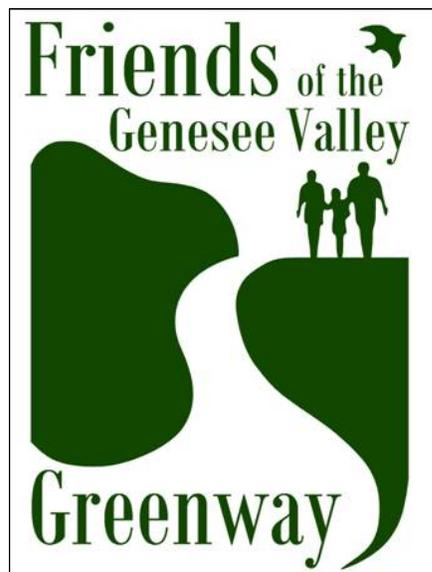
Business Sponsors receive these unique benefits:

1. A one-time feature article about your business in the *Greenway News*, which will be posted on our website for the membership year
2. A display ad (business card size) that will appear in every issue of the membership year, posted on our website and hot linked to yours

Business Sponsors benefit from significant exposure to this audience:

1. Several hundred dues-paid members (households/organizations/businesses)
2. 500+ adjacent landowners in Monroe, Livingston, Wyoming, Allegany, and Cattaraugus counties
3. 250+ complimentary subscriptions sent to elected officials at national, state, and county levels; planning, transportation, economic development, recreation, and tourism officials; conservation boards, chambers of commerce; environmental and preservation organizations, trail groups, public libraries, and historical societies; DEC, OPRHP and DOT; bicycle and ski clubs
4. Public distribution in libraries, public spaces, and FOGVG booths at area sporting/recreation events
5. Unlimited exposure on FOGVG website, which averages 3000 unique visits per month

Note: Members who have already renewed may upgrade their membership to the Business Sponsor level.



Earth Share

Please note that **NYS employees may donate to the Friends through Earth Share** as part of the NYS Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) workplace giving program. FOGVG is a part of SEFA campaigns in all NY counties. You'll also find us listed under Earth Share in participating corporate campaigns. **Please look for us.**

Stay Informed & Entertained !

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New York Outdoors Blog

Visit

<http://newyorkoutdoors.wordpress.com>

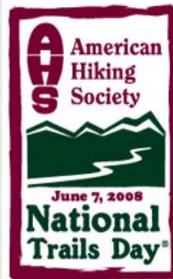
(you can choose a daily email message or a RSS feed)

2008 GREENWAY & RELATED EVENTS

Saturday, June 7, National Trails Day Guided History Walk:

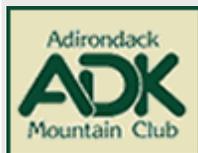
Meet 10:30 a.m. at Oakland Road Locks for a two-mile walk along the locks. Learn about Oakland, as well as the history of the canal and railroad in this area. Leader: Tom Grasso, President, Canal Society of New York State. Info: 585-658-2569 or email:

fogvg@frontiernet.net



Saturday, June 14, Greenway Bike Ride

Meet at 10:00 am at the trailhead in Canawaugus Park on River Road (Route 251) in Scottsville for a two-hour, 14 mile ride south to Rt. 5 in Avon and back. Bring water. Lunch in Scottsville after the ride is optional. Ride Leader: Richard DeSarra. 585-461-5363 or rdsbike@rochester.rr.com



Saturday, June 14, 11th Annual ADK Outdoor Expo 9 am - 4 pm Mendon Ponds Park Beach Area: Workshops and demo taking place all day. Environmental organizations (including FOGVG) represented. www.gvc-adk.org.

Sunday, June 15, Interpretive Hike on Greenway in Monroe County:

Meet at 12 pm at Little Black Creek Park on Scottsville Rd. near 84 Lumber for a three-hour, five mile round trip) easy/moderate hike south past double arched culvert and through a "great tree canopy." Hamlin Beach's Naturalist will explain history of the canal and Greenway, while pointing out nature's secrets along the way. Registration required: 585-964-2462

Sunday, July 13, Interpretive Hike on Greenway in Monroe County: See June 15



Aug. 7-11, North Country Trail

Ass'n Annual Meeting
At Cazenovia College, Hosted by the FLTC, ADK-ON & CNY Chapter of NCTA. 585-658-9320 or www.fingerlakestrail.org

Saturday, Aug. 9, Greenway Bike Ride

Meet at 10:00 am at the trailhead in Canawaugus Park on River Road (Route 251) in Scottsville for a two-hour, 14 mile ride south to Rt. 5 in Avon and back. Bring water. Lunch in Scottsville after the ride is optional. Ride Leader: Richard DeSarra. 585-461-5363 or rdsbike@rochester.rr.com

Sunday, **Aug. 10 - 10th Ann'l Greenway Horseback Ride**
Meet at Chandler Rd. Trail Head off Rt. 63, York, 10:00 a.m. Two-hour ride. Free parking in field next to trail head. Optional brunch at Yard of Ale Canal House Inn, Piffard at noon. Info: 585-658-2569 or email: fogvg@frontiernet.net

Sunday, **August 10, Interpretive Hike on Greenway in Monroe County:** See June 15

August 16 - 17 - Caneadea Summer Festival: FOGVG info booth at the Caneadea UM Church, Rt. 19 at Rt. 243. Other activities going on community-wide. Info: caneadeatown@hotmail.com

September 12 -13 - Highlander Cycle Tour & Expo

Bristol Mountain Winter Resort, Canandaigua, NY, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Five cycle tours (30 - 100 miles) of various levels of difficulty in the scenic Bristol Hills. FOGVG to be at Expo on the 13th. Info: www.highlandercycletour.com



September 27 -28 - DEC Hunting & Fishing Days

NYSDEC Region 8 Headquarters, Avon, NY, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Numerous vendors, displays, and activities related to conservation/wildlife take place during these two days. FOGVG to be represented here. [www.dec.ny.gov / region8@gw.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.ny.gov/region8@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Sunday, September 28 - 27th Annual "Journey for Sight"

5K Walk-a-Thon Belfast, NY (meet at the park next to Rt. 19), 12:00 – 1:00 Registration; Walkers depart at 1:00, runners at 1:30. Sponsored by the Allegany County Lions Clubs, the route includes one mile of the Greenway (between Hughes St. and Gleason Hill Rd). Info: Wendell Bennett (607) 478-8111



Sunday, **October 19 - 16th Annual Ridgewalk & Run** - Wellsville, NY- This event, attracting 900 participants in 2007, features spectacular trail walks and competitive runs (14 miles, 10K, & 5K) showcasing the stunning fall beauty in the northern Plateau Region of the Allegheny Mtns. www.ridgewalk.com

Sunday, **November 9** - FOGVG Annual Meeting, 2:00 p.m. Location and Program TBA

Send Greenway Events info to fogvg@frontiernet.net

Friends of the
Genesee Valley



Greenway

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

fogvg@frontiernet.net

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WWW.FOGVG.ORG

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TRAIL CLEAN-UP DAY at OAKLAND

FOGVG member John Malendorf coordinated clean up efforts on May 3 at the Oakland Locks. Volunteers cleared out the parking area at Oakland, and then everyone went merrily on their way down the trails with clippers, saws and axes.

Participants included FOGVG members Ron Abraham, Susan and Nate Cook, and David Shaw; Raymond Shaw; and four

SUNY Geneseo students: Rebecca Achton, Kim Benkert, Sara Pacer, and Suli Suriel from Sisters Making a Change.

FOGVG members Susan and Jim Knauer were in charge of the picnic at the Letchworth State Park Parade Grounds that followed the work session. In addition to the volunteers, five members of the Letchworth State Park Operations Crew assisted with the clean up. ***We thank all participants for a job well done!***

