Fall 2023

Friends *of the* Genesee Valley Greenway



Genesee Valley Greenway in between Avon and Scottsville. Photo credit: Robert Melville.

Table of Contents:

Letter from the President, Joan Schumaker - Page 1

Biking to the Scottsville Summerfest - Page 2

Announcement: Gravel Grinder Bike Ride - Page 3

Updates from the Park Manager, Kristine Uribe - Page 5

Report from Genesee Valley Trail Town Coordinator, Pauline Burnes - Page 6

Ribbon Cutting: Improvements at Canawaugus Park - Page 8

Remembering Ned Holmes: Greenway End-to-End Rides Part V - Page 9

ROC the Day Fundraiser: Bench Improvements - Page 12

Coffee Shops Along the Greenway - Page 13

Membership Campaign & List of Current Members - Back Cover

President's Message

Email: fogvg@frontiernet.net
Telephone: 585-490-3302

Joan Schumaker



Welcome to what I hope will be a very colorful fall in Genesee Valley Greenway State Park (GVGSP). Now is the time to enjoy hiking and cycling the Greenway. Take lots of colorful photos of you, family, and friends enjoying the trail and post them on Facebook or Instagram. We also need photos of trail users for our soon-to-be-launched new website. You can send photos to us at fogvg@frontiernet.net.

We are limiting our regular newsletters to two issues each year but are publishing smaller e-Newsletters every month or two to keep you informed of Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway (FOGVG) activities. If you have not been receiving e-News issues, you can read the June and August 2023 issues at fogvg.org/newsletters/. If you want to receive e-News, please send your email to trail@fogvg.org. We owe a huge Thank You to Walter Pond who volunteered this summer to serve as FOGVG editor and has been doing a remarkable job. Jules Hoepting who serves as designer and layout person for our newsletters has also done excellent work and deserves a big Thank You.

The FOGVG Annual Meeting was held on October 2nd, and we are most pleased to welcome three new Directors: Sarah Weeden (Rochester), Jonathan Enzinna (Cuba), and Kimberly Meehan (Cuba). Sarah and Jonathan were elected to 3-year terms and Kimberly will be serving for 2023-24 to fill a vacancy. For the first time we have a full Board of 15 Directors. More details on our new Directors will be in future newsletters.

I also want to thank Michael Doyle, a past FOGVG Director, who joined us again in 2022-23 to fill a vacancy. Over about 15 years, Michael's creative efforts resulted in construction and maintenance of the Greenway in Cuba, addition of creative signage and PR to promote the Greenway and Cuba's history, and the transition of Cuba to a Trail Town with a welcoming Gateway to the Greenway. Thank you, Michael. You have made a difference.

The FOGVG Trail Town Coordinator, Pauline Burnes, funded by a Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), and New York State Office of Parks Recreation Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Partnership Grant, interacted regularly with the 10 Trail Town Committees providing technical assistance for their PTNY grant funded projects, developing additional trail enhancements and improving connectivity between the Genesee Valley Trail Towns (GVTT) and Genesee Valley Greenway State Park. We commend Pauline for her exceptional work this past year and regret that funding for her position ends on October 31, 2023. FOGVG will continue to work with the Trail Towns to advance the GVTT Initiative. *See Pauline's article in this newsletter*.

I Love My Park Day was a huge success on May 6 with six GVGSP Trail Towns arranging trail cleanups with four also offering gate painting and gardening as options. A total of 136 volunteers worked on the 6th, or later in May, or beyond.

Summer 2023 was a busy time. On June 3, National Trails Day, a group of 30-40 Greenway and canal enthusiasts enjoyed "Life of a Lock Tender and his Lock," a very special program at Lock 2 north of Scottsville. Also in the summer, FOGVG staffed booths that provided FOGVG/GVTT/Explore Genesee Valley information and GVG State Park maps at six festivals and other events along the Greenway.

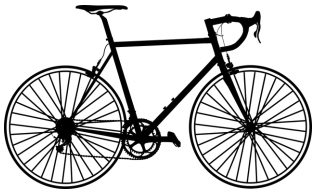
Don't forget to follow us on our Facebook Page @FOGVG. We have 1.5K Likes and 1.6K Followers. The next time you log in, check to see if you are one of the thousands who have been invited but failed to click "Like." Our FB Group has 612 members, a significant increase from 274 in May. Consider joining our MeetUp Group at www.meetup.com/GVGSP- Enthusiasts/ with 677 members. As a member, you can RSVP, comment, share photos, etc... to increase visibility of FOGVG activities for those not on FB. This should encourage other Enthusiasts to participate in future GVGSP events.

Remember our membership year is from September 1 to August 31. Growing our membership is especially important as we continue to work with Greenway Trail Towns to improve their connectivity to GVGSP and increase the number of trail users on the Greenway and also in their villages and towns.

If you need to renew for 2023-24 or want to join us for the first time, go to fogvg.org/membership-application/. You can download a membership form to mail or complete your membership by using PayPal or a credit card. If you are a regular Greenway user, please support us as we assist in the development, protection, promotion, and maintenance of New York's Genesee Valley Greenway State Park. We sincerely appreciate your memberships and donations.

Joan Schumaker

Biking to the Scottsville Summerfest



By Walter Pond, Newsletter Editor



Cyclists on bridge over Genesee River at Wadsworth Junction;
Front to back, right side: Steve Lee, Andy Stewart, Ann Carrol-Lee, Dana Voelkel;
Left Side: Karen Managan, Joe Voelkel, A new friend (unidentified). Photo Credit: Brian Managan



Brian Managan

Brian Managan and more than a dozen other members of the Rochester Bicycle Club rode a cycling loop from Pittsford to Scottsville, and back, this past August. Their route included the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park from Wadsworth Junction in Wheatland to Genesee Valley Park in Rochester. And, as Brian says, August 26th was "a gorgeous day with gentle winds" for “a great 40-mile ride” with “good food to eat” at the Scottsville Summerfest, the midpoint of the ride.

Brian has been a lifelong cyclist and member of the Rochester Bicycling Club for 32 years and is a founding member of FOGVG. Thus, he was the obvious person to design and organize this ride along the Greenway as part of a loop across southern Monroe County. He called the route “ALGE,” using the initials of the bike trails the riders used: the Auburn Trail, the Lehigh Valley Trail, the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park, and the Erie Canalway Trail / Empire State Trail.

The ALGE Loop

ALGE is a niche route for cyclists because it is "a gravel ride." Cyclists distinguish this type of ride from a mountain trail, requiring a mountain bike and technical skill, or a road ride that shares the route with automobile traffic. The gravel ride niche is becoming more popular across the country for cyclists looking for level paths accessible to all skill levels. Frequently, "rail-to-trail" paths like the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park are the backbone of gravel rides because they are away from congested roads and are as level as the former railroad track they are built upon.

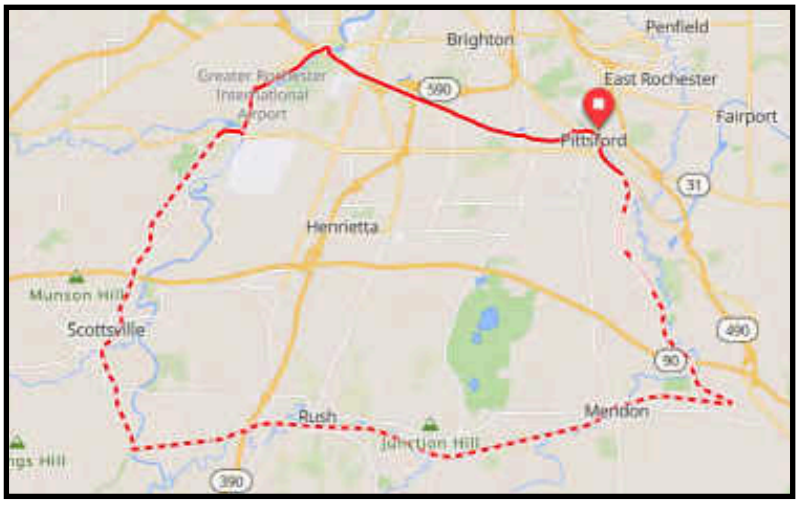
From the starting point, Schoen Place in Pittsford, the cyclists made their way to the Auburn Trail outside of Victor. This 9-mile trail follows the path of the Auburn and Rochester Railroad, originally a 78-mile track from Geneva and Canandaigua to Rochester. The Auburn Trail intersects with the Lehigh Valley Trail, taking our cyclists west towards the Genesee River.

For Brian and the RBC members riding with him, the Lehigh Trail offered views of the still largely agricultural towns of Mendon and Rush. This is because the former railroad travels through the Town of Mendon along Irondequoit Creek and then crosses over to the Genesee River watershed and follows Honeoye Creek through the Town of Rush. The cyclists also appreciated their view of the stone abutments that once carried the Lehigh Valley Railroad tracks across both the Genesee River and the former Rochester Branch of the PA Railroad, which was built upon the former Genesee Valley Canal right-of-way. Known as Wadsworth Junction, this is also where Brian's group turned north on the Greenway towards Genesee Valley Park. At the park they could finally head east on the Erie Canalway Trail to return to Schoen Place.

Top: Bike Parade at Scottsville Summerfest. Photo Credit John Ridge, courtesy of Mendon/Honeoye Falls/Lima Sentinel "Fun At Scottsville Summerfest"

Bottom: ALGE Ride loop route in red. (ridewithgps.com)





Scottsville's Summerfest

The Genesee Valley Greenway, of course, takes travelers through Scottsville. The village is easy to find from the Greenway since the trail widens into Canawaugus Park. When Brian scheduled the ALGE for August 26th, he designed the route to have Scottsville as a mid-point so that his crew could take a break at the Scottsville Summerfest that day.

Summerfest is held at Scottsville's Johnson Park, just a 2-minute bike ride or 5-minute walk from Canawaugus Park. It is a longstanding community event in Scottsville that once included a 5k walk/run. The Village and its volunteers are reviving their summer celebration after the COVID-19 hiatus. According to Brian, there were tasty treats, as well as arts and crafts vendors and games for children.



Cyclists on ALGE ride at Lock 2 on the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park. Photo Credit: Brian Managan.

BIG Announcements!

FOGVG Board Elects New Officers

MOUNT MORRIS, NY
At their annual organizational meeting on October 26th, the FOGVG Board of Directors elected officers for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Carl Schoenthal will serve as President, Rebecca Rowley is the Vice-President, Fran Gotcsik remains in the Treasurer role, and Joan Schumaker will move to the role of Secretary.

The Board extends its enormous gratitude to Joan for the many years she has served as President of the FOGVG. The years of her service extend to before the GVG State Park existed. She enthusiastically partnered with the new State Park in its efforts to upgrade the Trail, trailheads, and other amenities.

These efforts extended to securing grant funding for the Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative and cheerleading GVGSP Manger Kristine Uribe's efforts to secure funds to resurface 17 miles of the Trail between Rte. 5 in Avon and Scottsville, as well as to build four pedestrian bridges in the Allegany County portions of the Park.



Carl Schoenthal



Rebecca Rowley

The Board and Officers are preparing an ambitious agenda of activities for the Friends this coming year, and they welcome any member who has the time and inclination to volunteer to email trail@fogvg.org.

Coming Fall 2024: Gravel Grinder Bike Ride

The FOGVG supports events like the ALGE ride that use the Greenway to connect the corridor to other trails and to surrounding communities. In fact, the 2023 ALGE ride was such a success that the Friends and the Rochester Bicycling Club are planning a larger event for 2024, dubbed "The Genesee Gravel Grinder."

The Genesee Gravel Grinder will feature a variation on Brian's 40+ mile ALGE loop ride for experienced riders and will include shorter routes for cyclists and families seeking a fun ride or a ride with less distance, instead of a race or physical workout! The exact routes and start/finish line are still being finalized.

FOGVG is planning the Gravel Grinder to increase trail usage and raise funds for maintenance, enhancements, and programming along all the 90 miles of Genesee Valley Greenway State Park. FOGVG welcomes anyone interested in participating as a cyclist or a volunteer to assist with the event.

Keep your calendar open for "The Genesee Gravel Grinder" Fall 2024. Final date, route maps and other details will be announced soon.



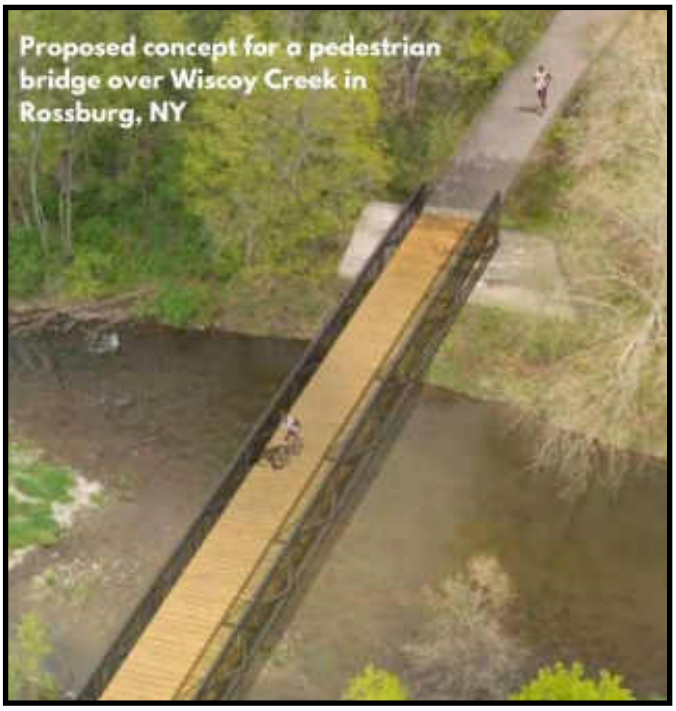
Trail Talk:
Updates from Genesee Valley Greenway State Park Manager, Kristine Uribe

As we start to put away summer and unpack winter, it's a good time to reflect, be thankful for our support, and appreciate our accomplishments. A huge shout out to the GVG crew for achieving seven complete mows of the trail. A park record!! The annual crew was also increased by one, giving the park a total of three year-round employees, accompanied this year by three seasonal employees.

In between the mowing, weed whipping, hole filling, and tree removal, part of the crew worked with the boom ax within the Cuylerville section between Rt 20A and Chandler Rd. This piece of equipment removes the larger vegetation from the sides of the trail which opens it up closer to the 12' x 12' corridor we strive for. The boom ax is attached to a large tractor and can throw debris well over 70 feet! The crew will close the section of trail while they are working with this equipment. Please choose another section if you see these closures, for your safety and theirs. The boom ax is now in Nunda. Hooray!! A big thank you to the Town of Nunda Department of Public Works, who is sharing their parking area with us!

Thanks to a federal Department Of Transportation (DOT) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant and a generous donation from the Ralph J Wilson Jr Foundation, the GVG project team is in the process of making the Bridges of Allegany County (BOAC) a reality. Bridges that were once removed in Rossburg, Fillmore, Houghton, and Caneadea when the railroad was abandoned will be replaced, reestablishing connection after 60 years! Access to creek banks is being established in anticipation of soil sample collection. These samples are vital to the design of the bridges. Project design will continue to be worked on through 2024, with construction expected in 2025.

A well needed upgrade is around the corner for the Brook Rd parking area in Rochester, just north of Lock #2 and the I-90 overpass. There is now one long island down the middle of the lot which has been made into a pollinator garden. The downfall to establishing such a garden is it cannot be mowed for the first year, making it quite unsightly. The potholes, however, will be gone, the apron from the road to the parking lot will be paved, and the lot itself will be rolled gravel. The lot will be closed Monday, November 6-8 2023, for this work. Please pass it along.



Taken from @GeneseeValleyGreenwayStatePark Instagram post, June 30, 2022

Over the past year, the Allegany Region has been leading a steering committee, working with DOT and Bergmann Associates on a feasibility study on how to utilize the I-86 corridor to connect Cuba, Hinsdale, and Olean. Input from stakeholders in all three communities shared their knowledge and thoughts. A first-round draft copy was recently released to the steering committee for comment.

Thank you all for your support throughout the year and don't forget to get outside and play!

Look for Genesee Valley Greenway State Park on Facebook and Instagram (both @GeneseeValleyGreenwayStatePark)

Genesee Valley Trail Towns Report



By Pauline Burnes, RLA, Genesee Valley Trail Town Coordinator

As we enjoy the cooler days of autumn, with the beautiful patchwork of colors adorning the hillsides and Genesee Valley Greenway State Park, I would like to congratulate all who have participated in the Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative.

It has been a great experience to work with the Genesee Valley Trail Town Partners: Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway, Parks & Trails New York, Letchworth Gateway Villages, and the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park Manager, Kristine Uribe.





There is amazing energy, enthusiasm, and collaboration as the Genesee Valley Trail Towns work diligently to complete their grant funded projects by the end of October. I encourage all readers of this newsletter to visit the participating Genesee Valley Trail Towns: Scottsville/Wheatland, Avon, Geneseo, Mt. Morris, Nunda, York, Perry, Hume (Fillmore), Caneadea, and Cuba.

A dedication ceremony was held at Canawaugus Park in Scottsville on October 19 to celebrate the improvements to the park. These include an ADA pathway and designated parking spaces for access to the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park, new picnic tables, split rail fence, bike repair station with bike racks, kiosk and gardens.

As you visit other Genesee Valley Trail Towns, keep up the momentum, share ideas, encourage one another. Everyone who has contributed to this effort has various skills, from grant writing to kiosk construction. Participating staff from the Department of Public Works have contributed their skills, expertise, and labor installing the amenities that are beautifying their communities.

Enjoy the benches, picnic tables, lighting, gardens, and wayfinding signage you see appearing in Genesee Valley Greenway State Park this year. There is more to be done in 2024 as 2023 grant enhancements are completed. These enhancements are funded by generous grant monies managed by Parks & Trails NY and provided by the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. Greenway communities have also benefited from Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy funding managed by Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway (FOGVG) and administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo.

It is a pleasure to work with so many community advocates on such an incredible initiative! Continue the good work, trade ideas and skills, and encourage one another.

I am in the process of preparing a folder of information that will be useful to the Genesee Valley Trail Town initiative as you move forward.

Top: Left to right: DPW employees Troy Bennet and Tim Cassidy and GVTT coordinator Pauline Burnes point to the future location of finger pointing sign in Nunda. Photo Credit, Kristine Uribe.

Bottom: DPW Troy Benett enjoys a bench on the Nunda Greenway Branch Trail. Photo Credit, Pauline Burnes.

Ribbon Cutting: Genesee Valley Trail Town Improvements at Canawaugus Park

By Pauline Burnes, Genesee Valley Trail Town Coordinator



SCOTTSVILLE, NY: On Thursday, October 19 park improvements made possible by a Genesee Valley Trail Towns grant were celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Canawaugus Park, located directly adjacent to the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park in Scottsville. Genesee Valley Trail Town grants are funded by the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, administered by Parks & Trails New York. Collaborators include the Village of Scottsville, Town of Wheatland, Genesee Country Village & Museum, Greater Wheatland Area Chamber of Commerce and Wheatland Historical Association. Each organization contributed to the matching funds and volunteer support for the effort in collaboration with the Town of Wheatland Trail Town Committee.

The Village of Scottsville Department of Public Works crews did an excellent job of installing split rail fencing, a native plant garden, a picnic table, a concrete pad for a bike rack and bike repair station, and new ADA accessible concrete path from the parking area to park amenities. Special thanks go to the Village of Scottsville Mayor Maggie Ridge, Town of Wheatland Supervisor Linda Dobson, Town of Wheatland Councilman Carl Schoenthal for leading the charge to promote the Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative, and Kristine Uribe, Manager, Genesee Valley Greenway State Park.

A beautiful new kiosk was constructed by Alden Hatch as an Eagle Scout project, with assistance from his Scout Troop and family, with assembly by Kevin Marks, Michael Souers, Bob Hatch and Carl Schoenthal. The maps and information regarding the history of Wheatland and Scottsville was developed by the Trail Town Committee, with special thanks to Katy Swank who implemented the design utilizing the Genesee Valley Trail Town Design Guidelines.

As Genesee Valley Trail Town Coordinator and Landscape Architect, it has been my privilege to work with so many people that care deeply about their communities. I encourage the Genesee Valley Trail Town Committees to continue the good work connecting people to parks and trails.

New Garden and Split Rail Fence. From left to right:
Anne Hartman, Scottsville Village Clerk | Marjorie Byrnes, NYS Assembly | Gregory Stevens, Parks & Trails New York
Kristine Uribe, Park Manager, Genesee Valley Greenway State Park | Linda Dobson, Supervisor, Town of Wheatland
Carl Schoenthal, Town of Wheatland Councilman | Maggie Ridge, Mayor, Village of Scottsville
Not pictured: Austin Kephart representing Pam Helming, NYS Senator
Not pictured: Pauline Burnes, Genesee Valley Trail Town Coordinator | Photo credit: Jules Hoepting

Top left: Event attendees use new bike rack. Top right: Event attendees use new kiosk.
Middle: New kiosk and bike rack. Bottom left: native garden and split rail fence.
Bottom right: Village of Scottsville DPW crew. Photo Credit: Top left and bottom right by Pauline Burnes.
Top right, middle, bottom left by Jules Hoepting.











Remembering Ned Holmes
Greenway End to End Rides - Part V

James C. Hutton

Ned Holmes was an early champion of the Genesee Valley Greenway, starting when he was the Natural Resources Supervisor at the NYSDEC, Region 8 and in retirement, FOGVG President from 2003 to 2013. Jim Hutton, who was a FOGVG Board member with Ned, has written a series of articles about riding the Greenway together. This is the last one in the series.

Editor's Note: *Jim Hutton's descriptions of the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail below are based on its condition at the time of Ned's and his end-to-end rides. There have been significant improvements to the Greenway since then. Cycling in the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park today is a much-improved experience.*

Ned Holmes and I biked the Genesee Valley Greenway from end to end six times between 2007 and 2012. Ned passed away on July 31, 2020. I greatly enjoyed the time we spent together on these bike rides. There is something about riding on an abandoned railroad right-of-way that I really like. And, to do it in the company of such a good companion as Ned, made it even better.

I am remembering Ned by writing this series of articles about our end-to-end rides. You will find a description of the previous ones in the August 2023 edition of this Newsletter. In Part IV, I described the first leg, from Mt. Morris to Scottsville, on the morning of the third day of our rides. In this Part V, I will tell of the final leg, from Scottsville to Genesee Valley Park, in the afternoon of the third day.

Our rides ended in Scottsville twice due to rain in the early years. In those cases, I called my wife, Ann, by cell phone and asked her to pick us up earlier than planned, at Canawaugus Park in Scottsville, instead of Genesee Valley Park in Rochester. Those shortened end to end rides were about 90 miles in length. In most years, however, we returned to the Greenway after lunch and continued our passage north to Genesee Valley Park.

The section of Greenway on the north side of the Village of Scottsville is very pleasant. There are multiple access points to it: at the bridge over Oatka Creek at the north end of Canawaugus Park, or from Rochester Street by way of the Canal Street Boardwalk or East Genesee Street.* This section of the Greenway is about one and one-quarter miles long, entirely wooded, and comes out at the Scottsville-Rush Henrietta Road (Route 253) crossing. This is a grade crossing with relatively fast traffic. Therefore, we would stop, get off our bikes, wait for any traffic to pass, and then walk them across the road.



Ned Holmes on the Greenway.

From there, it is about a three-quarter mile ride through a partially wooded area to Scottsville Road (Route 383). Earthen ramps flank each side of Scottsville Road. These ramps are quite steep, challenging to ride a bike up, and can be treacherous to ride down as there can be spots of loose gravel.** And, you must make another grade crossing, again with fast traffic, using the same cautions described before.

After safely riding down the ramp on the north side of Scottsville Road, we continued along the Greenway about one mile through dense woods and under the New York State Thruway, before coming out onto farmland. From there, the Greenway proceeds through farmland for about two and one-half miles, across Morgan Road, under the power lines, and across Coates Road to Brook Road. We would typically stop briefly to inspect the

remains of Genesee Valley Canal's Lock 2, which is about one mile north of Coates Road. We often rode our bikes the short distance west on Brook Road so Ned could check the condition of the Greenway Parking Area.

From Brook Road to Ballantyne Road (Route 252) is about two miles through deep woods. The Greenway then detours east onto Ballantyne Road to Scottsville Road (Route 383). For several years we had to ride our bikes north for over two miles along the east shoulder of Scottsville Road, by Little Black Creek Park, before rejoining the Greenway at the former Jet Diner across from the Paul Road intersection. It was uncomfortable, noisy, and dangerous riding so close to the heavy traffic speeding down on us from the rear. The relocation of the Trail to a dirt path along the west side of Scottsville Road was not much of an improvement, as it quickly became full of ruts.***

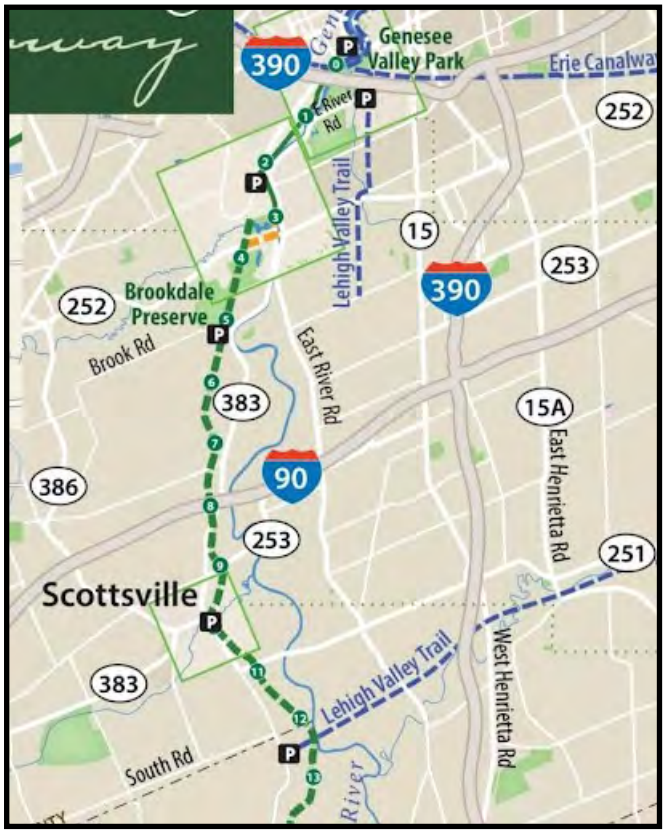
One year we continued north across Ballantyne Road, over the Genesee Canal Aqueduct at Black Creek, to the south side of the CSX Railroad. We then rode our bikes east on an unimproved "trail" along the south side of the railroad to Scottsville Road. We had to get off our bikes and carry them up the embankment to Scottsville Road, at the CSX Railroad Bridge. Other than providing the opportunity to see the Aqueduct at Black Creek, it was not a route we chose to use again.

The Greenway is paved for the final two miles from the Paul Road Intersection to its endpoint in Genesee Valley Park. About one mile from Paul Road, the Genesee Valley Greenway joins with the Genesee River Trail, before passing the Monroe County Fire Training grounds. Over the last mile it goes under the Interstate 390 bridge and briefly uses the Erie Canalway Trail over the Erie Canalway Trail bridge. The end of the Greenway if you are coming from the south, or beginning if you are going south, is a short distance north of the Erie Canal in Genesee Valley Park. I remember seeing the original, long-abandoned Pennsylvania railroad bridge adjacent to the Trail.

It is 34 miles from Mt. Morris and about 10 miles from Canawaugus Park to the end of our ride in Genesee Valley Park. This urban park setting starkly contrasts with the rural terminus in Hinsdale, where we had started two days earlier. The starting point in Hinsdale, New York is an abandoned section of Old Route 16, near the unused bridge over Oil Creek, at the north end of Main Street. Whereas the endpoint is in a well-manicured park in Rochester, New York. We had gone by car to Hinsdale, ridden our bikes almost 103 miles, stayed in motels two nights, and lived out of saddlebags for 3 days. Our standard practice was for my wife, Ann, with the assistance of my friend, Will McCoy, to station our car at the park that morning. Ned and I would then load our bikes onto the rooftop bike racks on the car and drive to Ned's and his wife Louise's home outside Hemlock. I did not consider myself a "biker" like Ned but was always amazed that I wasn't more tired or sore.

Our last end to end ride was in 2012. Unfortunately, it did not turn out to be "all's well that ends well". It was a rainy day in June 2012, but not as bad as the ones we had experienced before. We rode through some light rain but arrived in Scottsville by noon and had lunch at Salvatore's Old-Fashioned Pizzeria on Main Street. The rain had stopped while we were at lunch, although the roads and trail were still wet. I followed Ned back to the Greenway via the Canal Street Boardwalk. Too late, we realized the boards were extremely slippery. Ned was 30 to 40 feet down the boardwalk when I started. I saw that he was walking it as he straddled the crossbar. Since I was riding my bike, I quickly realized I would run into him if I didn't stop. As I applied my brakes, my wheels immediately started to skid on the wet surface. I released the brakes and hollered "look-out" to Ned. My shout must have startled him as he fell soon thereafter, and as he hit the surface he cried out "my arm is broken."

I went down with my bike soon thereafter but, fortunately, did not break anything in the process. Ned got up, holding his bike with his good arm, and we then walked our bikes very carefully down to the Greenway. We turned right and walked across the Oatka Creek



Northern end of Genesee valley Greenway State Park.

Bridge to the nearest picnic table. As Ned sat at the table, I called 911 on my cell phone. The operator answered quickly and asked what my emergency was. After telling her my friend had a broken arm and we needed an ambulance, she asked me what my address was. She had no idea where Canawaugus Park and the Genesee Valley Greenway were. I pleaded with her to please just notify Scottsville Ambulance and they would know where we were.

She insisted that she needed an address and would try entering the name of the park into her system. Of course, she then wanted me to spell the name for her. I had no idea how to spell "Canawaugus." This was before the days when cell phones had screens, or Apps like Google or Google Maps. I remember having to walk over to the sign alongside the road to see how to spell "Canawaugus." Luckily it was in the 911 system and the operator was finally able to dispatch an ambulance.

I called Ned's wife, Louise, to tell her what had happened and to meet him at the hospital. While waiting for the ambulance to arrive Ned tried to locate his identification and health care insurance cards. It was at this point that a bad day turned into a terrible one for Ned. His wallet had fallen out of his belly pack somewhere along the Trail that morning. Therefore, he had no money, identification, or health insurance cards. The loss of his wallet in conjunction with his injury made it a very stressful day for Ned. Prior to the arrival of the ambulance, he kept lamenting about what a terrible day it had been.

The ambulance arrived a short time later, taking Ned to Highland Hospital. That left me alone at Canawaugus Park with our bikes and saddlebags. I called Chuck Willard who was scheduled to pick us up later at Genesee Valley Park. Chuck was playing golf at a course in the northwest corner of Monroe County. He said he would get someone else to take his passengers home and leave the course immediately but, given the distance, it would take a while. Since there were no speed traps along his route, I didn't have to wait long for Chuck to arrive. Fortunately, he had his Chevrolet Avalanche which was easy to load with our gear. We drove to Ned's home outside Hemlock and left his belongings there. Then Chuck drove to his home in the Town of Rush where I was staying. I was very thankful to him for disrupting his golf game and helping me.

Things began to look better as this day came to an end. A woman had left a message on my cell phone saying she had found a wallet, and my name and phone number were on it. Ned had a copy of our Mt. Morris hotel bill in it, which had my name and address. So, Ned got his wallet and all its contents back the following day. I spent that night with the Willards and, with a goodbye to Ned, headed back to Avon, Connecticut, where I lived at the time.

Ned called me the following year, 2013, and wanted me to go with him on another end-to-end ride of the Genesee Valley Greenway. However, I had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in January 2013. Although it had not yet affected my ability to bike, I did not feel comfortable signing up for a 3-day ride. I was mostly concerned about falling off my bike, as some of the unopened sections of the Trail were rough. Ned tried unsuccessfully to change my mind, but I had to decline his request. I know Ned was disappointed but, given that I had also moved to Hamden, Connecticut, it was time for me to stop these multi-day rides in New York State. However, Ned did ride it again in 2013, accompanied by Davies Nagle.

I did contact Ned and arranged to meet him sometime after that for a one-day ride on the Greenway. However, Ned had begun to exhibit some early signs of Alzheimer's Disease by then, and it was raining on the day we had planned to meet. We met and went to a restaurant outside Lakeville, NY, for lunch. Although I didn't feel he was that different, Ned seemed self-conscious about his condition. When I saw him next, Ned was in the Livingston County Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation in Mt. Morris. I last visited him there in 2019. Seeing someone who had been so physically fit in such a weakened condition was disheartening. Ned died July 21, 2020. I feel fortunate to have known and done so much with him. I think of him whenever I see a slim, older man on a bicycle.

The Greenway at the time we made our end-to-end rides involved several sections of undeveloped trail, bridges out, and many detours. However, each summer that Ned and I rode it there was more of the Trail open, more bridges replaced, and fewer detours than before. Even so, they were wonderful rides, and I highly recommend anyone who enjoys biking and trails to do it.

* This second access point becomes a critical element in our story, below. The boardwalk was removed many years ago, but hikers can follow the path of the walkway in dry weather to access the Greenway. --Ed.

** These ramps have been substantially upgraded with a stone dust surface. --Ed.

***In 2017, this dirt path was paved but Parks was not allowed to pave over the many driveways where the ruts are. Traffic calming measures between the side path and the heavy traffic on the roads are still needed. --Ed.

FOGVG is joining ROCtheDAY again!

ROC THE·DAY
NOVEMBER 28
ROCtheDay.org

ROC the Day is a 24-hour, online giving extravaganza powered by United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes that takes place annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, also known as Giving Tuesday.

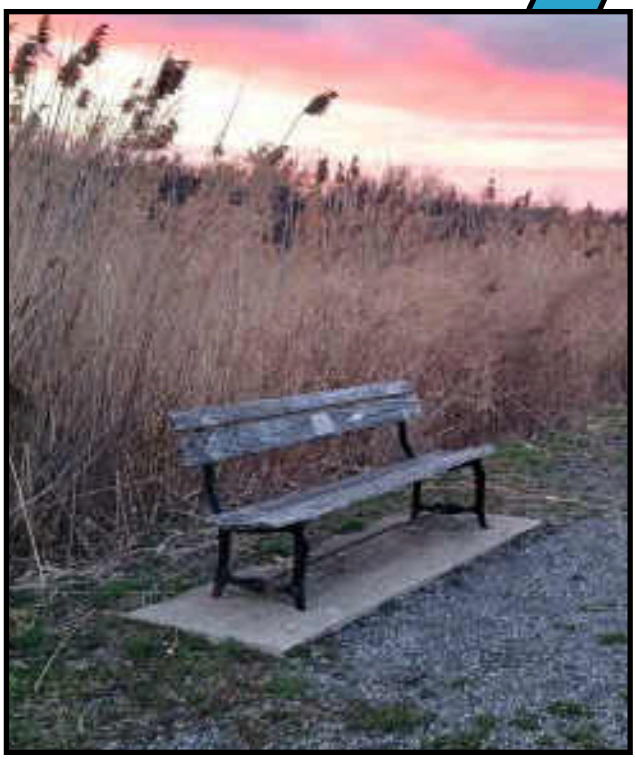
ROC the Day allows people in our community to support not-for-profit organizations doing great work in the nine-county Greater Rochester area.

This year, ROC the Day will take place on **November 28** from midnight to 11:59 pm (roctheday.org/Causes-to-Support/FOGVG).

All proceeds go to replace wooden benches damaged beyond repair with new recycled plastic Greenway benches by TimberForm™

Genesee Valley Greenway State Park will start with bench locations in Monroe and Livingston Counties.

Before



After



Coffee Along the Greenway

By Walter Pond, Newsletter Editor

Some of us organize our world by the trails we walk or bike. Some of us mark our travels by the bakeries along the route. I track the coffee shops and cafes, looking for that homey, cozy atmosphere, a warm beverage, and perhaps something to nosh.

Fortunately, along the Genesee Valley Greenway there are many folks with similar tastes. We count a half-dozen coffee places within walking distance from the Greenway! There are more if you are on a bicycle, but we will save that list for another day. With only your trail boots, you can reach any of the establishments below to relax, restore, and fill your thermos or cold cup for the next leg of your journey.

Follow along, traveling from north to south.



Coppa Co, Houghton, NY. Photo sourced from business social media.

1. Artisan Coffeehouse of Scottsville

Village of Scottsville / Town of Wheatland

The Artisan Coffeehouse has the warm and cozy feel of a classic coffeehouse. It is popular with residents of the village and town. Their community focus is evident in the shop and on their Facebook page. They offer locally roasted coffee, lunch and breakfast sandwiches on artisan breads, fresh baked goods, and a gift shop with artwork and local products.

2 Main St, Scottsville, NY 14546
585-889-9730, ext. 2
cafe@beautifulvalley.net
artisancoffeehouse.com
facebook.com/ArtisanCoffeehouseScottsville
Monday - Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday: 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Directions

10-minute sidewalk walk from GVG on Genesee St. East &Rochester St (Rte. 383)

5-minute walk on Scottsville “Boardwalk” Path, in dry weather (Boardwalk is gone, but the path is still there)

5-minute sidewalk walk through Canawaugus Park to Rte 251 to Main St.

2. Suzea's Gluten-Free Bakery and Cafe

Village & Town of Mount Morris

Come for a coffee and stay for the food! Light meals available all day on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Suzea has mastered the science and art of cooking gluten-free. In addition to her own breads, rolls, and baked goods prepared on-site, Suzea’s meals feature artisan cheeses from East Hill Creamery in Perry, NY

115 Main Street, Mount Morris, NY 14510
585-658-3567
suzeas-gluten-free-cafe.business.site/
facebook.com/suzeasglutenfree
Thu, Fri, Sat - 8am to 6pm

Directions

5 minutes - On the GVG, cross NY Rte 408 (E. State St.) [crosswalk]. On the south side of Rte 408, step right (uphill) a couple of yards and proceed south on Genesee St. to Lake St. Hang a right and look for Suzea’s on the left just before you step onto Main St (NY Rte 36).

Alternative - at the first GVG crosswalk on Main St. (NY Rte 36, proceed south along the street [sidewalks]; pass some antiques shops and other restaurants to Lake St. & Main St.

3. Anchors Coffee Bar

Village and Town of Nunda

This is the farthest walking coffee destination from the Greenway, but well worth the detour! They offer locally made and fresh baked goods with a menu that rotates daily and seasonally. See the sample menu from October 6, 2023. They offer grab-and-go options and feature Evening Star Coffee as well as specialty coffee creations. They welcome trail walkers as well as travelers from nearby Letchworth State Park.

11 North State St., Nunda, NY 14517
FB - search "Anchors coffee shop"
Mon, Tues, Fri 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Thurs 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sat 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Wed & Sun Closed

Directions
1.5 miles from Oakland Locks Parking Area - 30 minutes by foot; 10 minutes by bike
.5 mile from Nunda Branch of GVG at Vermont St & Rte 408, 10 minutes by foot; 3 minutes by bike

4. Valley Bread And Bounty

Hamlet of Fillmore, Town of Hume

Once again we find a bakery and soup/sandwich shop owned and operated by local folk, giving their baked goods and meals a local flavor. All of it good! There are displays of locally made products for sale and a feeling of community inside Valley Bread and Bounty. Most important for our coffee aficionados, they are one of a select few local establishments serving Jockey Street Coffee, roasted nearby in Houghton, NY, (jockeystreetcoffee.com) otherwise available for order online or at special events at their roastery. Jockey Street Coffee has a blend named after the Greenway.

10 West Main Street, Fillmore, NY 14735
585-365-3450
valleybreadandbounty@gmail.com
valleybreadandbounty.com/
facebook.com/valleybreadandbounty
Tuesday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wed, Thurs, Fri 7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sun & Mon: Closed

Directions:
Valley Bread and Bounty is on the southwest corner of Main and Genesee Streets in Filmore, NY. There is a Greenway parking area also on West Main Street, near Emerald Street.

5. Coppa Co

Village of Houghton / Town of Caneadea

Coppa Co is a "co-llaborative" of artists, dreamers, makers, and coffee-drinkers. Their motto is "Coffee. Art. Ceramics." They serve fair trade coffee from New Day Coffee Roasters, a micro-roaster in Tonawanda, NY, www.newdaycoffeeroasters.com/. Check out their Facebook page for current ceramics classes and "paint-n-sip" events. Check out their website and get to know this creative crew (coppaco.com/our-story). Better yet, stop in for a cup of joe and purchase a handmade ceramic mug to take home.

9729 Route 19, Houghton, NY 14744
coppaco.com
facebook.com/CoppaCo
Hours: Fri-Sat: 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sun-Thur: Closed

Directions - As you walk along the Village of Houghton, there is a point (42°25'18.1"N 78°09'24.7"W) on the Greenway where a grass path opens up opposite the Genesee River. Head up the path and through the Houghton Wesleyan Church parking lot to Rte. 19. Look for the marked cross walk to safely cross Rte. 19. Head north on Rte 19 and look for Coppa Co a few hundred feet from the crosswalk.

6. The Perfect Blend Coffeehouse & Eatery

Village and Town of Cuba

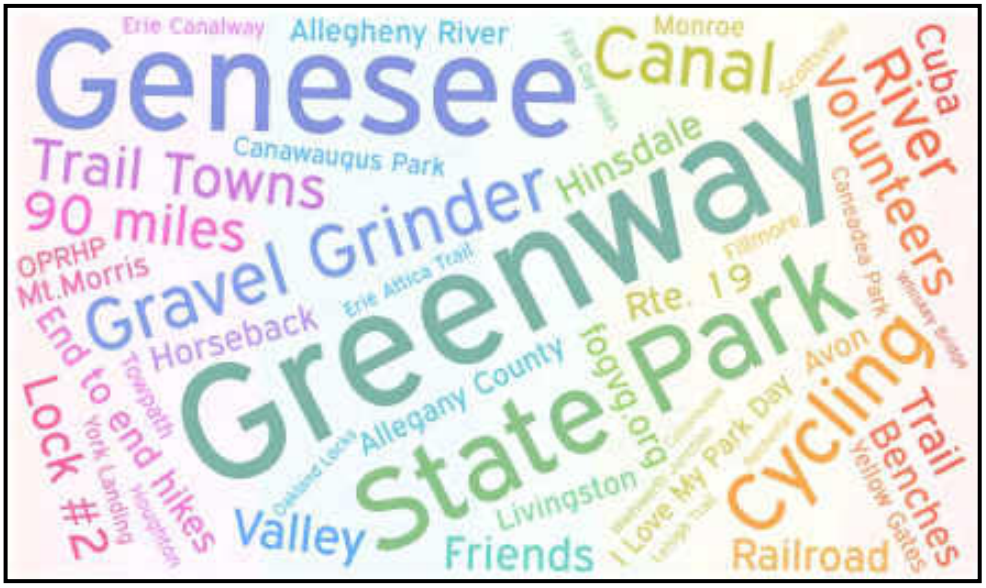
This Coffeehouse is a perfect blend of community, coffee, and cozy space is the village of Cuba. It offers locals an alternative to fast food. It offers visitors a welcome and is an anchor for community theater, film, and live performance music in the Palmer Opera House and the neighboring Cuba Cheese Museum. It is a perfect stop before or after exploring the original part of the Greenway that is still in the heart of Cuba, just a few blocks away.

14 W. Main Street, Cuba, NY 14727
(585) 209-5513
theperfectblendcoffeehouse.com/
FB: search "theperfectblendcoffeehouse"
Monday-Friday: 6:30am-4:00pm
Saturday & Sunday: 8:00am-3:00pm

Directions:
Easy: Its on Main St. in Cuba.
From the perspective of the Greenway: the on-road portion of the GVG enters Cuba, NY, from the north on NY Rte 446, Genesee Street. Although Rte 446 turns west on Water St, to find "a perfect blend," continue south on Genesee St to W. Main St. At Main St., turn right (west) and look for the Palmer Opera House and The Perfect Blend Coffeehouse, halfway down the block on your left. [Note that the restored portion of the Greenway accessible from the Cuba business district is a half-mile west of the Coffeehouse. Ask your barista for a map or directions.]

What Does FOGVG Mean to YOU?

2023-2024 Membership Campaign



How to join or renew your membership!

The membership year is from September 1 through August 31.

1. **Visit fogvg.org**
2. **Click "Join Us"**
3. **Use the online form and a credit card**
   OR print off a paper form and mail a check

P.O. Box 42 Mt. Morris, NY
14510 585-658-2569
fogvg@frontiernet.net

The list below contains FOGVG Members for 2023-24 as of late October, 2023

Reminder letters were not sent last year and the total number of 2022-23 memberships were way down. Lots of very familiar names are missing from the list below, but we look forward to hearing from all our members from past years and adding new members who are now regular users of the Greenway.

We appreciate your support as we assist in the development, protection, promotion, and maintenance of Genesee Valley Greenway State Park.

#Karen Amrhein Family
*Andrea Barber
*Pauline & Brian Burns
*Michael S. Buskus
David Crowley
Ronald DeGroff
Cody & Kathryn Donahue
*Roger J Easton Jr.
*Dave Ferggusson
Gary & Carol Gaskin
#Bobby Gosschalk
**Jeffrey Hennick
Pam & Doug Hill
Mark W Holt
*James C. Hutton
Lonnie Kaczka
Jon Kapeck & Jeanne Kaeding
Catherine Kenny
*Allen Kerkeslager
Paul & Sheri Kreher
LonnieKaczka
Brian & Karen Managan
James & Jeanette Maxim
Michele Mc Call Family
*Sanford and Jill Miller
#Loren Penman
Walter & Cindy Pond
Joseph Readl
John Ridge
Gary & Chery Rouleau
Rebecca Rowley
*Fred & Gerry Sauter
*Carl Schoenthal
*Joan Schumaker
Jo Taylor
*David Tilley
George D. Van Arsdale & Elizabeth Osta
#Sarah Weeden
Charles Woolever
Peter Wybron

Memorial Gifts:

In loving memory of Robert F van der Horst, an avid trail user.

Marjanne Kuntz
*Conny Henry Robert

*Membership/Donation of $100-499
**Membership/Donation of $500
#New Member — Welcome!

Want even more FOGVG? Like us on Facebook (Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway-FOGVG) !