THE GREENWAY GAZETTE

Friends *of the* Genesee Valley Greenway

A BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER | SPRING ISSUE, 2024

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Park Advocacy Day in Albany

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First Day Hikes sees record turnouts in the 100th year of NYS Parks

I love My Park Day in Trail Towns

Upcoming events on and off the trail

Greenway Cycle Challenge - September 2024!



Our previous newsletter announced plans for a Fall 2024 event with a focus on drawing visitors from all over the region to experience the newly resurfaced Greenway and connected trails across southern Monroe County. These plans continue with a renewed vision – the Greenway Cycle Challenge – which will be held on September 14, 2024.

The event will be an opportunity for friends and families to pre-register for a 10+ mile challenge ride from Scottsville to Driving Park in Avon, allowing the opportunity to raise funds and work on fun and educational challenges along the route. Riders and families will meet for a post-event celebration that will include food and vendors, highlighting the best of outdoor recreation within the Genesee Valley.

Mark your calendars, and we hope to see you on the trail!

Sign up for email updates! <<<<<< **>>>>>> Follow us on Facebook!**

Park Advocacy Day in Albany

Green scarves were out in full force for Park Advocacy Day on February 27. The distinctive green scarf was worn by over 140 attendees from Friends organizations across the state as we met in Albany to hear from state leaders on OPRHP capital initiatives, the NYS Parks Centennial signature projects, and related funding proposals in the 2024 state budget. The day concluded with visits with legislative representatives and their staff.



[From left to right] Patricia Sullivan (Friends of Hamlin Beach Park), Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes, Carl Schoenthal, Linda Kantrowski (Friends of Letchworth), Elias Fetter (Friends of Reinstein Woods), Rob Fetter (Friends of Reinstein Woods)

FoGVG has been a past recipient of multiple Parks and Trails Partnership Grants (PTPG), which are funded under the $400 million Environmental Protection Fund. PTPG received additional funding due in part to our advocacy and has led to successful projects such as our new website, map brochure, and the Genesee Valley Trail Town program in 2023.

President Carl Schoenthal, pictured above, led a cohort of Genesee Region advocates, representing Genesee Valley Greenway, Hamlin Beach, Letchworth and Reinstein Woods visited the offices of Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes (pictured below), Senate Minority Leader Rob Ortt, Deputy Assembly Minority Leader Stephen Hawley and State Senator Pamela Helming, who represents her district on the Senate Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation committee.

First Day Hikes See Record Turn-outs!



Over 700 people came out to share the first day of 2024 with us for First Day Hikes and the start of our NYS Parks and Historic sites centennial! A special thank you to the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway-FOGVG, Rev-UP Hume and our many volunteers and helpers! Parks educator Mike Landowski led a hike in Cuba, NY and Conrad Baker led a hike in Fillmore, NY. Other hikes were organized and led by many friends and volunteers in our Greenway communities. The regional maintenance staff also created a unique photo opportunity for visitors in state parks in and around the Genesee Valley. Our centennial travel sign will be moving all around our state parks in the area!



[Left] Tom Donahue's First Day Hike at Cuba



[Center] Attica Erie Avon First Day Hike. Pictures by Pam Hill





[Far right] Michael Landowski led the First Day Hike at Cuba, NY



Joan Schumaker Recognition and Lifetime Achievement Award from FOGVG



President Carl Schoenthal presents Joan with a Lifetime Achievement Award.



Friends, members of the Board, and Park staff gather at Yard of Ale in Piffard to recognize Joan's contributions.

As FOGVG's membership and activity increases, it is important to reflect on how far the organization has come and thank those who made it happen. In late November, new and "seasoned" Greenway friends gathered at Piffard's Yard of Ale to celebrate the decades of effort and accomplishments of Nunda's Joan Schumaker who retired as FOGVG president after 30 years. Joan joined FOGVG in 1993 after retiring as professor and Dean at SUNY Geneseo. No task was ever too large or small for Joan - brush clearing, mowing, event organization, gate painting, history talks, tabling, newsletter articles, membership, press releases, social media, and webmaster. And, Joan is still contributing as secretary and advisor for the Friends.

City Magazine's *Best of Rochester:* Best Biking Trail



FOGVG Board member Sarah Weeden at the awards show representing!

The Genesee Valley Greenway was a finalist in City Magazine's Best of Rochester Awards as one of the Best Biking Trails! The nomination was in the best of Recreation category. While the Greenway didn't win the category (the Erie Canalway Path won!), we are happy to have been nominated and we look forward to next year's polls! Radio Social hosted the City Magazine awards show on January 4th, and attendees enjoyed food, drinks, gaming, raffle prizes and of course, the January issue was hot off the press! Thanks for the nomination, Rochester!



Best of Rochester Awards Party at Radio Social.

Celebrate Trails Day



Help us celebrate Genesee Valley Greenway State Park! On April 27, we observe Celebrate Trails Day with three different events.

The Cuba Trail Town Committee and the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway are excited to announce a ribbon cutting at the Bull Street trailhead. This event will start at noon and will formally open and acknowledge several projects that Board Director Marilee Patterer and her late husband, Joe Patterer, and the late Dr. Michael Doyle had spearheaded over several years. Joe Patterer and Michael Doyle both served as Directors for FOGVG and were a tremendous influence on much of the renaissance and we would be honored if you or a representative might consider attending this event. Refreshments will follow at Palmer Opera House.

Scottsville and Fillmore will also be hosting trail events, so to find out more, please check out the website for further information at https://fogvg.org/events or visit the Celebrate Trails website at https://www.railstotrails.org/celebrate-trails/events/

Get Out on the Trail!

The Genesee Valley Greenway State Park offers regular events on the trail! Upcoming events include hiking events and educational talks.



- **Earth Day Hike** Monday, April 22nd, 2024 | 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM-Fillmore NY
- **Full Moon Hike** Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024 | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM-30 Brook Rd, Rochester NY
- **Canal History** Saturday, May 25th, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM-Belfast-Oramel
- **Dragonfly Exploration** Saturday, June 8th, 2024 | 1:00 PM - 02:30 PM-Piffard NY
- **Birding on the Greenway** Friday, June 14th, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM-Belfast NY

Join our Greenway Meetup Group!

Looking to Get Involved? Volunteer! Become a Member! Take Hike!





- **Celebrate Trails Day - Cuba** Saturday, April 27th | 12:00pm
  The Trail Town committee in Cuba invites you to a ribbon cutting of the new trail kiosk and sign, and to take a short hike along the Genesee Valley Greenway!
- **Celebrate Trails Day - Fillmore** Saturday, April 27th | 10:00am
  Visit us at the gazebo at 71 West Bar and Restaurant (71 W Main Street, Fillmore NY) with swag and maps, and we can direct you to a Greenway hike.
- **Celebrate Trails Day - Scottsville** Saturday, April 27th | 10:00am
  Stop by Artisan Coffeehouse, learn more about the Greenway, take a hike!
- **I Love My Park Day - Caledonia & Oakland** Saturday, May 4th 2024
  Volunteer to help with the trail! We need people to pick up litter, paint gates, and do some carpentry work on kiosks! Details on next page. Register https://www.ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day
- **Greenways Advocacy Day** Monday, May 20th
  Join us in Albany for the Greenway Advocacy Summit! Register with PTNY
- **National Trails Day - FoGVG Membership Picnic** Saturday, June 1
  Membership Picnic at the Parade Grounds at Letchworth Park - 3PM. Presentations and hike on relocated Trail 7. Not a member yet? Join us at www.fogvg.org!

Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway

I LOVE MY PARK day

May 4, 2024



PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK

100 YEARS | New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

How It Works

Find an event! Take note of the different projects and age restrictions for the event you wish to attend to make sure it's a good fit for you or your group. Parks & Trails New York :: I Love My Park Day (ptny.org)

Register to volunteer. Make sure to note the time and meeting location for your event. Most events will take place rain or shine but some events will have rain dates. PLEASE NOTE: you will have to register each member of your group individually so everyone will fill out the appropriate participation waivers.

Roll up your sleeves and give back to our beautiful natural spaces: On the day of the event, show up at the location and time indicated on the event listing and get to work. Depending on the project, some events recommend bringing your own tools and gloves. We recommend bringing your own water, sun protection and clothing you don't mind getting dirty! If you need to cancel your registration or have any questions about a specific event after registering, please contact the host site directly (this information will be provided in your confirmation email).

Genesee Valley Greenway State Park - Caledonia Trailhead

9 AM—12 PM, All ages welcome

Volunteers will be needed to improve the Greenway's Caledonia Trailhead by repairing the kiosk, paint gates and spread stone. Gate painting at multiple locations along the Greenway will also be available. Flowers may be planted at (4) locations along the Greenway from Rochester to Scottsville.

Genesee Valley Greenway State Park - Oakland Locks

9 AM—12 PM, All ages welcome

Pruning and Brush Clearing at Oakland Locks viewing area and gate painting at various locations along the Greenway!



Caledonia Kiosk (Route 20 trailhead)