

Trackin'



Bringing you news and information
about your Chautauqua Rails to Trails

Spring/Summer 2017

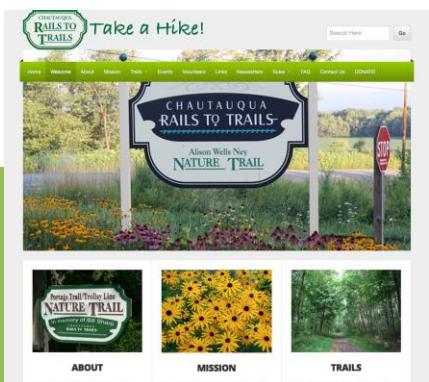


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Help Us Go Green!

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From The Locomotive

By Jim Fincher – President, CR2T

It does seem strange to be writing this segment of Trackin' instead of Bob Berke. But all things change, and Rails to Trails is no exception. I hope my presidency is as fulfilling as Bob's. Your Board of Directors is busy with many things. We are taking steps toward a strategic plan. We are looking at developing the railbed we own from Riverside Road towards Frewsburg into an active trail. We are trying to develop a strategy to choose the kind of trail surface we would like to have and looking at how to afford it. We have received a small grant to allow us to hire a person to find a source of funds for our unique culvert maintenance needs. There are two displays we plan to develop that would add to the color of the rail-trail. We need to address signage problems we have- but to do that, we need your help identifying those problems. If you can't find your way on the rail-trail, tell us- then we can fix the problem. We are busy, have lots to do, and will take all of the help we can get. Let me invite you to help- just contact us at cr2t@chaurtt.org. In the meantime, TAKE A HIKE. It's good for you. - Jim

Check Out Our Website!

For the latest and greatest information, check us out on the web today at www.chaurtt.org.

Spring Salute

by Wendy Lewellen, CR2T Recording Secretary



Speakers (L to R): Les Johnson, Jim Fincher, Pat Fincher, Devon Taylor, David Akin, Lillian Ney, Andy Goodell and Robert Berke

CR2T hosted a "Spring Salute" event at Webb's Captain's Table Restaurant on March 11. The Webbs have been major contributors to the establishment of the trail system since its inception in 1991. Attendees enjoyed the music of Steel Rail, Labor of Moles and Bill Ward, had food and beverages, basket raffles, a 50-50 raffle and were able to purchase CR2T merchandise. Beverage sponsors were Southern Tier Brewery and JB Liquor Shoppe.

The "Salute" was directed to Dr. Robert Berke, outgoing founder and president; to CR2T supporters and to the upcoming arrival of spring. With Jim Fincher, current president emceeing the program, an array of speakers shed light on the history of the organization and its efforts to provide public access for various exercises and nature lovers to the 30-mile trail. Bill Ward, board member, performed a freshly original song with lyrics celebrating Berke's 25 years of service, with the refrain, "Locomotion soon gave way to motion."

Devon Taylor, Mayville historian, outlined the history of railroads in the trail area. Dr. Lillian Ney recounted the donation of a section of trail in memory of her daughter, Alison Wells Ney and described the early days. Andy Goodell shared

memories of his late father John Goodell's leadership in the first seven years. Another founding member, Les Johnson, spoke of the immense challenges they had to overcome and gave recognition, in addition to the Neys and Webbs, to the Sheldon Foundation, the Diggs family, the Baer family and many property owners. Pat Fincher reminisced about her years as Director of Patient Services at the Chautauqua County Health Department under Dr. Berke during his tenure as County Health Commissioner. Jim Fincher shared insights of his long history as trail manager and reminded us of the ongoing hurdles faced today. Berke was gracious and provided inspiration to the current active 14-member board.

CR2T board member David Akin shared his experience of his full-time job in McMurdo Station, Antarctica where he is operating engineer/heavy equipment operator for the National Science Foundation. Several audience members shared insights and experiences of the trail system.

The event added approximately \$1,800 to the CR2T treasury- much-needed revenue! The Salute was chaired by Wendy Lewellen. The board wished to thank all contributors, attendees and donors for supporting this event.



"Steel Rail" performed for the crowd

Spring Membership Drive

By Judy Takats, CR2T Membership Secretary



CR2T is hosting a Spring Membership Drive. Our vision is to develop and connect a network of safe and accessible trails for all Chautauqua families and visitors to the area.

Our members are the lifeblood of this organization and without people like you we could not continue to exist.

The first 50 family memberships (\$40 or more) will receive a FREE CR2T gift.

This donation is fully tax deductible. Please use the information at the end of the newsletter to mail in your donation, or visit our website to process electronically:

<https://chaurtt.org/donate/>

Please join us today! Contact Judy Takats (716-834-7440, jtakats@gmail.com) for more information on joining or to see if your membership has lapsed.

Big Culvert News!

We were recently notified that the Town of Portland received a \$100,000 grant from the state specifying it was to be used to help patch the big failing culvert near Wolebon Road. The grant was the work of Senator Cathy Young and we certainly thank her for obtaining this grant. Jim and Keith will be working with the Town to wade through all the paperwork required to get the money. The amount of the grant is not enough to repair the culvert, but it should be enough to postpone catastrophic failure until we can find full funding to fix it right.

An Easy Way to Support CR2T: Amazon Smile

By Wendy Lewellen, CR2T Recording Secretary

As we run, hike and ride into our spring fund drive, we are trying to impress upon the public our need for financial help. Trail maintenance is an ongoing and expensive process, especially in light of the continuing demise of the huge culvert near Wolebon Road in Portland. In addition, we have the possibility of creating a trail on the property we own between Riverside Road and Frewsburg. What an asset that would be to that area of the county- but one that could be costly.

Consider making your purchases online through **AmazonSmile**. It's a user-friendly method of donating .05% of the value of your purchase if you list Chautauqua Rails to Trails as the recipient. We, of course, do not want you to make purchases this way instead of supporting *local*/businesses, that is, businesses owned by local people. Chain stores do not fit in that category. Please think of us the next time you go online to buy things.

Visit <https://smile.amazon.com> for information about how to add a charitable organization to your account.



Third Saturday Co-Sponsored Hikes

By Judy Takats, CR2T Membership Secretary

CR2T started co-sponsoring hikes with the Chautauqua County Hiking Club in September 2016 to enable more people to become acquainted with our beautiful Chautauqua County Trails.

Eileen Campbell of the Chautauqua County Hiking Club and Judy Takats of Chautauqua Rails to Trails have noticed a growing interest in these hikes since they began. We are continuing to get more inquiries about these hikes and have seen some new faces. Because they are on Saturday, we are also attracting more families to come out and experience our trails.

The January hike, led by Sam Kent, involved a drive to Allegheny State Park. Despite the lack of good snow, the group did manage to cross country ski and reported having a good time.

February's hike was led by Eileen Campbell. Meeting at the Great Tree Inn, the group decided the Rail Trail was too icy so they chose to explore the Westside Overland trail. Mark and Sheila from the Great Tree Inn supplied hot beverages and homemade muffins finishing off a great, invigorating day.



February Hike on the Westside Overland Trail

Our March hike of the Portage Trail in Mayville attracted 14 hikers and was led by David Akin and Jim Fincher. Devon Taylor and his wife Nancy shared a lot of history with the group. It was a bit

tough slogging through ice, snow and slush but once again, a good day to be out in our beautiful surroundings.



March hike on the Portage Trail

Although many accounts exist, local historians indicate that this section of trail began as a Native American trail, but was later used by French explorers, and even later by French militants. We're grateful that the corridor is now used for peaceful purposes!



March hike on the Portage Trail

Third Saturday Co-Sponsored Hikes, continued

By Judy Takats, CR2T Membership Secretary

Eileen snuck in a Sunday hike on April 9- a beautiful walk around Cassadaga Lake! The day was warm and beautiful and judging from the turnout (12 plus hikers) it looked like everyone was experiencing cabin fever and needed to get out.



Early April Hike at Cassadaga Lake

The April hike, led by Eileen Campbell and Judy Takats started at Prospect Station Rd. and continued to Woleben Rd. The day was beautiful and we hiked about 4 miles. A few families joined us for the walk; the kids reported liking the stop we made at Speilberg's swing as the best part of our day.



The April hikers at Speilberg's Swing



April hike in Portland

We snuck in a mid-week hike on a beautiful and warm day on April 26. We hiked for 4 miles starting in Mayville, hiking from Lakeside Park to Route 430. The trail provided good hiking, with only a few wet spots. We witnessed many signs of spring that day: wild flowers sprouting and a beautiful heron. The group posed for a photo on an old section of the rail.



April 26 hike in Mayville

Hikes, continued

By Judy Takats, CR2T Membership Secretary



April 26 hike in Mayville

Hikes will be continued on the 3rd Saturday of each month. We usually start at 10:30 in the morning but the time may change depending on the hike and leader(s). Look on Facebook or our website (www.chaurtt.org) for up-to-date information.

Anyone with an idea for a hike or wishing to lead a hike, please contact Eileen of the Chautauqua County Hiking Club (chautauquahikes@aol.com) or Judy of CR2T (jtakats@gmail.com).

Our next hike will be held on May 20, taking place on the Eastside Overland Trail. Look for details on our Facebook page and website.

Board Members

Bree Neal Aggett (Vice President)—Lakewood
 Dave Akin—Mayville
 MJ Albert—Chautauqua/Stedman
 Keith Carrow (Trail Manager)—Mayville
 Jim Fincher—(President)—Jamestown/Busti
 Wendy Lewellen (Secretary)—Bemus Point
 Elsa Nelson (Treasurer)—Bemus Point
 Torry Ormond—Mayville
 Judy Takats (Membership)—Portland
 Matt Terrill (Trail manager)—Westfield
 Anna Thibodeau—Portland
 Bill Ward—Mayville
 Thom Wright—Jamestown
 Micaela Young—Sherman

ATVs on the Trail

By Wendy Lewellen, CR2T Recording Secretary



Pictured is a section of the Brocton Trail where the landscape fabric is all mangled. This kind of damage can only be caused by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) using our trail. Maybe you are unaware of the fact that ATVs are absolutely prohibited on our system. The two major reasons are damage to the trail and safety of other legitimate trail users. If you see ATVs on the trail, try to take a mental note of any identifying characteristics and forward the information to either the Sheriff's Department or a CR2T board member.



Bike the CR2T

by Thom Wright, CR2T Board Member

If you have not experienced biking on the CR2T, you ought to make plans sometime this Summer. Even if you have not been on a bike in decades, you owe it to yourself and your family. One hundred yards down the trail you will start to experience the same thrill and happiness you had after your first ride around your block growing up.

The CR2T are smooth enough for just about any type of bike, road, hybrid, cruiser or mountain bike. The railroad grade is hardly noticeable, especially when your attention is focused on the fantastic scenery. You will find yourself pedaling past beaver ponds, grape vineyards, hardwood forests and country meadows, maybe even a curious cow or two. There are only a few street crossings along the way, so the CR2T is a great place to get your children used to biking together with the family.

One of my favorite starting points is of course Mayville, NY, where you have the choice to head towards Sherman or Brocton. And after the ride you can reward yourself with some ice cream from Boxcar Barneys. For those looking for more of a challenge, start down in Brocton behind the school. You will pedal up over the escarpment and the now infamous culvert on your way to Mayville. The great thing about this route is on the way back to Brocton it's a gradual decline so your pedaling will be easier. And there are

benches and swings along the way to take a breather if you need one.

A few things you want to make sure you have with you are a camera, some water, and your typical bike repair kit. The trails are wide and open, but the CR2T's are used by snowmobiles in the winter and once in a while, one of the tracks might throw a pick or two. It's unlikely you will get a flat, but no harm in being prepared to deal with one.

If you don't own a bike, don't trust your 20-year-old rusting 10 speed that is in the back of your shed, or you have relatives coming in for a visit, why not rent? Some of the local bike shops- Hollyloft Ski and Bike and Jamestown Cycle Shop- offer rentals and Loud Performance in Maple Springs, NY rents and will even provide drop off and guides for tours.

Experiencing CR2T from the seat of a bike is a great way to spend a few hours in the morning or afternoon. Many make the trails part of their exercise regime, a low stress (no cars or exhaust fumes) path to fitness.

Hope to see you out enjoying the trails this summer.

Visit the following website to learn more about bike rentals in Chautauqua County:
www.hollyloft.com
www.jamestowncycleshop.com
www.loudperformanceproducts.com

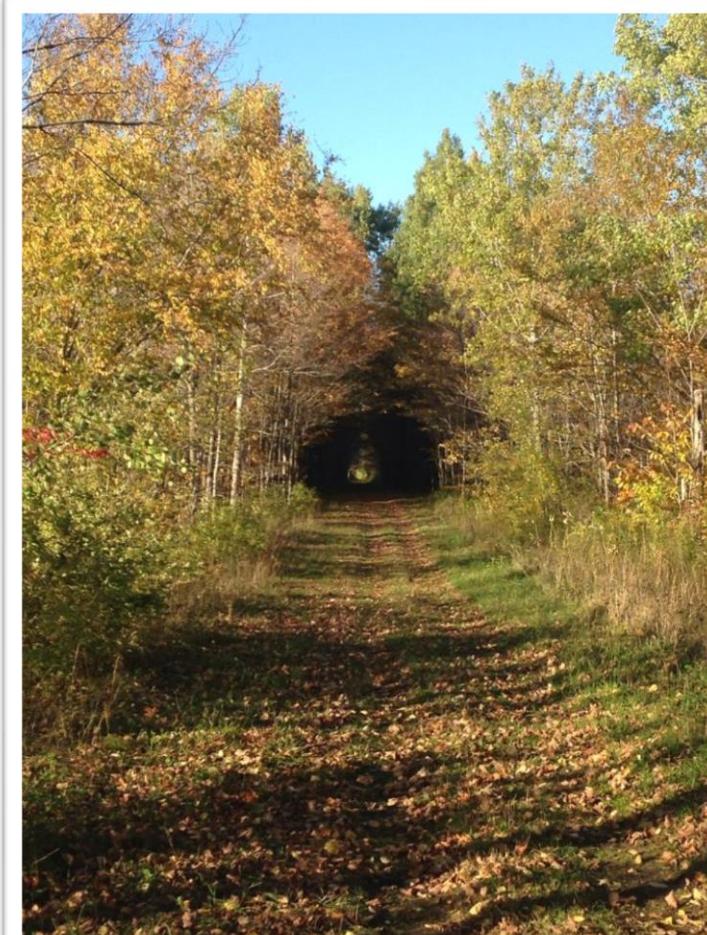


Photo Credit: Jacob Bodway



Support The Efforts of CR2T!

Yes, I want to support CR2T's effort to change the abandoned rail lines of Chautauqua County into multi-use trails which can be enjoyed by all.

Individual \$25 Sustaining \$100

Family \$40 Benefactor \$500

Patron \$60 Sponsor \$1000 & up

Business Partner \$100/\$200 per year for 10 years

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Detach & mail form to: Chautauqua Rails to Trails, P.O. Box 151, Mayville, NY 14757. *Thank you!*



P.O. Box 151
Mayville, NY 14757
cr2t@chaurtt.org