

Trackin'



Bringing you news and information
about your Chautauqua Rails to Trails

Fall & Winter 2018

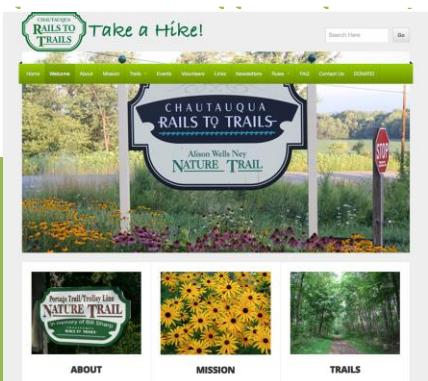


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Help us Go Green!

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From The Locomotive

By Jim Fincher – President, CR2T

Another year almost done. Wow! We did get some things done this year. We hope you noticed the new coat of paint on the gates and hope you didn't get any of the paint on you as you passed through them. The gates at Prospect Station, Bentley Rd and Titus Rd were prepared and painted by an Eagle Scout candidate, Austin Henry, from Clymer for his final project. Board members painted the other gates. Our work to develop a trail from Riverside Rd to Main St in Frewsburg is progressing nicely. Our Wine Walk was a huge success. Thanks for all your support with that effort. David Akin talked about some of his impressions of working in Antarctica in the summertime (there) as he has done for the past 10 years. About 70 people were in the audience for his talk. We are about 1/2 way through developing a strategic plan and have started work on an interactive map of the trail. We have adopted a conflict of interest policy in accordance with state law. Lastly, but not least, we are working to obtain funds to replace the big, damaged culvert near Wolebon Rd. We are busy. If you'd like to help with these efforts, give us a dollar or a holler. We'd love to accept both. Hope you have a simple winter. -Jim

Check Out Our Website!

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

Christmas Eve Hike

By Judy Takats, Membership Secretary

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our yearly commemorative gathering at Prospect Station Rd. where we remember the victims of the "Accident at Cross-Cut Trestle," when a train car went off the trestle on Christmas Eve in 1872.

A short hike to the site, a moment of silence, music, remembrances, hot chocolate and Christmas cookies make this a special family and canine-friendly event on Christmas Eve.

Additional information about the event will be posted on our Facebook page and webpage.

Help Us Reach Our Membership Goal!

By Judy Takats, Membership Secretary

We depend on YOU to help us keep our trails maintained and safe for everyone to use.

Membership in CR2T starts at only \$25.00 for an individual yearly membership and \$40.00 for a family membership.

Membership dues help support trail maintenance, trail maps, liability insurance, development of new trails and much more.

Currently we are working on a new trail in Frewsburg and creating better, easy-to-use and interactive maps.

We are all volunteers and CR2T is a 501C3 organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

Currently we have 86 members. Please go to our website Chaurtt.org and follow the directions to Donate and help us reach a goal of 150 members! We accept Pay Pal or check.



Give Big CHQ

By Bree Aggett, CR2T Vice President

On June 14, Chautauqua Rails to Trails participated in The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation's Give Big CHQ day of giving.

CRCF challenged non-profits across the county to engage community members in charitable giving through a day full of creative matching funding opportunities. Thanks to our supporters and CRCF, Chautauqua Rails to Trails raised \$2,668 to go toward the trail we're developing in Frewsburg. We're very grateful to all of you who contributed to our cause!

Throughout the day, over \$88,000 was raised to support the work of over 60 nonprofits. Plans are in the works to host another Give Big day in 2019.

Thank You

By Jim Fincher, CR2T President

Thank you.

Lots of people help maintain the rail-trail. We tip our hats to them. We know a few who help and don't know a few who help. We want to publicly acknowledge those people we know who help keep the trail a pleasant experience.

Bob Wright and Blair Koss keep the Prospect Station trailhead and the trail around the trailhead mowed. Bert Rappole looks after the flower bed at the Titus Rd trailhead and Judy Thies maintains the flowers at Prospect Station. Steve Smith mows much of the trail when he can.

Recently, 90 1/2 year old Charlie Lindstrom and his daughter drove his Gator from Titus Road to Wolebon Road and cleared 7 trees that had blown over in a storm.

Chuck Neal has mowed the Thayer Rd trailhead. And many of the board members helped maintain the trail too.

I'm sure many other people who we can't identify did their part in small and larger ways to help keep the trail the way we'd like it.

So thank you all. We'd encourage you to keep up the good work.

Third Saturday Co-Sponsored Hikes

By Judy Takats, CR2T Membership Secretary

Third Saturday co-sponsored hikes have now entered their second year. We began in September 2016 and as word has spread, our numbers have grown.

Over these past 2 years we've discovered new paths and made new friends.

Although we had to cancel hikes in January and February due to weather, we began in March and hiked in Mayville on the rail trail starting at Boxcar Barney's.

The April hike was around Cassadaga Lake; in May we were back on the rail trail beginning at Prospect Station Road, June found us exploring the northern section of the Westside Overland Trail, and in July we walked in Mayville on the newly paved trail around Chautauqua Lake.



Our hike in August began at Titus Road in Sherman, a particularly beautiful section of trail with lots of plant life, birds, beaver ponds and a very friendly doe who mistook us for her family.



In September, we explored our soon to be developed trail in Frewsburg. It was only 2 miles, but the trail was wet (and fun) and a little different than our usual hikes on more established trails.



These hikes last about 2 hours, are very family and pet-friendly. We leisurely walk the trail and talk and stop along the way and look at plants, birds or other wildlife. No one should feel threatened physically, as we keep the group together and adjust to each person's capabilities accordingly.

If anyone has an idea of a good hike, please contact either myself or Eileen and we can put it on the calendar. We are always looking for new places. Also, if anyone would like to lead a hike or tag along and just add a little to our knowledge of birds, plants, edibles, etc. We are open to new ideas and learning.

The Fall is the Right Time to Bike the CR2T

By Thom Wright, CR2T Board Member



Photo Credit: Edwin Ortiz

Here in Western NY, we are blessed with an artist's palette of the fall foliage. And a great way to take in the beauty of the leaves, ponds and vineyards is by bike. The CR2Ts 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. 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.

A great starting point is of course Mayville, NY, where you have the choice to head towards Sherman or Brocton. But at any of the crossroads, you will find some parking areas that you can get started from. If you begin down behind Brocton School, the first half of your ride will include climbing up the escarpment, but don't fret, it's not that bad. And of course heading back will be pleasant coasting, while catching glimpses of Lake Erie and the surrounding countryside.

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 or 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? Give Dee Dippel of Loud Performance in Maple Springs, NY a shout 716-386-1171. They rent and may even be able to help provide drop off and pickup. If you are using your own bike, be sure to keep Loud Performance, Hollyloft and Jamestown Cycle Shop in mind if you need it wrench on.

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 fall.

www.loudperformanceproducts.com

www.hollyloft.com

www.jamestowncycleshop.com

Wine Walk A Win for CR2T

By Jim Fincher, CR2T President

On July 20, we held our first annual Wine Walk on the Webb Trail in Mayville. Participants began the hike near Boxcar Barney's, walking to Morris Road and back on the trail- just under 2 miles. Along the trail, our guests sampled wine from their exclusive Chautauqua Rails to Trails Wine Walk glasses, and enjoyed snacks, a dice hike, a selfie station, and live music with friends.



We're very grateful to our sponsors Johnson Estate Winery, Woodbury Vineyards, Mazza Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing who each donated 2 cases of wine. Liberty Vineyards, Noble Estate Winery, and JB Liquor each provided deep discounts on cases of wine and champagne.

We had two musicians playing acoustic guitar and singing- Derek Houser and Jared Laurito. 90s alternative was the vibe for the night.

In total, 200 walkers joined us on the trail, which happens to be exactly what we planned for in terms of food and beverage, but exceeded our expectations for our first year hosting the event!

The best part of the night? We heard several local guests state that they had never been on the trail before, and that they hoped to return again soon.

Plans are in the works to host the event again in 2019. We learned a great deal and hope to make the next iteration of the Wine Walk even better. Thanks to all who joined us!



**SAVE THE DATE
FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL
HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER:
COOKIES, CAROLS, AND
COCKTAILS**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 3
5-7 PM**

**BIG INLET BREWERY
ELM FLAT ROAD
MAYVILLE, NY**

Antarctica Presentation

By Wendy Lewellen, CR2T Recording Secretary

On August 30 our organization sponsored a fundraising presentation by one of our board members, David Akin, entitled "Antarctica: A Day in the Life." It was held at Bellinger Hall at Chautauqua and was well-attended. Dave has been employed (and still is) for ten years at McMurdo Station and Scott Base.

One of his many responsibilities has been maintaining a well-established hiking trail system there. He showed slides and described his life and work there in that brutally cold environment. The audience was attentive and inquisitive. Dave shared vivid images as well as his insights on the warming of the planet and its obvious effect on Antarctica.

We are very grateful to Dave for this tremendous effort for the benefit of Chautauqua Rails to Trails. We will miss his attendance at our meetings as he once again departs to that cold continent during its summer season. It is wonderful to keep in contact with him via the Internet as we approach our winter season of meetings. Best wishes and thanks go to Dave.



Kudos to our VP

By Wendy Lewellen, CR2T Recording Secretary

At the objection of the editor of *Trackin'*, Bree Aggett, I insist on sharing that she was honored by the YWCA of Jamestown with the "Women of Achievement Award for Health/Wellness/Fitness." She was recognized at a banquet at Moonbrook Country Club on June 19. One of her many past and current efforts contributing to the health, wellness and fitness of Chautauqua County residents is the service she provides to CR2T as our Vice President. She is a reliable, active officer and we are proud of her.

Culvert Survey

By Jim Fincher, CR2T President

These two gentlemen are professional bridge and culvert engineers, Joe Monte of Buffalo (with the flashlight) and Brad Grisley of Rochester. They are surveying all the culverts under the rail trail, from Brocton to Sherman.



The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation granted us the funds to pay for the survey. We sincerely thank the foundation for their support.

I interrupted the engineers while inspecting a different kind of culvert, which is why they look like a nap was interrupted. As you can see, there is a small square culvert and a larger round culvert both encased in concrete. So far, they have surveyed 27 culverts and have a smaller number yet to do. A final report will be due in about 4 weeks.

The Frewsburg Trail

By Eli Wright

There is a small, some might even say quaint, town in Southern Chautauqua County, filled with people who work hard and are devoted to continually making their community a better place. Their Main Street and its branches have grown and evolved into an amazing destination for food, shopping, and a variety of examples of honest living.

Neighboring this small town is a bird sanctuary and wildlife refuge. Only two miles away as the crow flies, this oasis provides an amazing destination for those who enjoy experiencing all that nature can offer them; whether that be the flora and fauna, or just the peaceful serenity of nature at its best.

Unfortunately, these two destinations haven't been linked together in any significant way other than occupying the same brochure stand at rest stops and county tourism offices.

Hopefully that's about to change.



Since 1995, Chautauqua Rails to Trails has owned the abandoned stretch of railway from Riverside Road almost to Main St in Frewsburg. However, previous attempts to develop this land into a trail have all run into one hurdle or another. After seeing the success and popularity of the efforts made in the northern half of our county, CR2T looked to see what efforts could be made in the south. Last winter, they rolled their sleeves up for another go at developing the Frewsburg area Rail Trail. A group of dedicated and interested volunteers (as well as a very welcoming

community) have brought themselves closer and closer to having this be a reality.

A special mention must go to John Lobb, of Lobb's Auto Service Center, for listening and working with the organization, as he owned the last remaining 0.2 miles needed to connect the trail to Main Street. His continued growing enthusiasm for the project that would create a 2 mile natural surface recreational trail linking Frewsburg to another one of Chautauqua County's great destinations is inspiring. Mr. Lobb and CR2T hope to together develop a way to enter the trail from his parking lot, possibly even creating parking opportunities for trail users behind his garage.



Hopefully by the summer of 2019, Chautauqua Rails to Trails will have the two mile 1900's rail corridor developed into a wonderful trail where people can cross the 60 foot railway bridge that stretches across Frew Run Creek (just 200 Yards off Main Street), then proceed to stroll, hike, bike, even cross-country ski down the corridor, passing wetlands, a low forest, even a few beaver ponds along their way without the hustle and bustle of traffic to get in the way of enjoying the scenery. Chautauqua Rails to Trails is currently working towards securing funding for the project and there is still more work to be done: the bridge will require redecking and the trail itself has a few depressions that will need to be filled in order to remedy wet areas and other problems.

But the work is worth it to make sure that these two destinations are linked by something as amazingly wonderful and unique as they are themselves.

Highlights Since Our Last Issue of Trackin'

By Wendy Lewellen, CR2T Recording Secretary

(Author's Note: The Board of Directors of Chautauqua Rails to Trails meets the first Monday of each month at 7 PM at Webb's Captains Table. We welcome any members or trail lovers to attend these meetings! In keeping with our by-laws, we will, from now on, share with our membership, highlights of what has gone on with our organization in the time-frame between issues of Trackin.' We publish twice every year. Our Spring/Summer issue was published in May.)

- We are making very real progress in our efforts to use the property we own between Main Street and Riverside Road in Frewsburg to create a viable and safe trail. We have received support from many Frewsburg residents and are excited at the prospect of creating a trail in southern Chautauqua County.
- CR2T participated in three fundraising events to supplement the income from our membership dues: (1) The Wine Walk in Mayville on July 20. (2) A presentation on working in Antarctica by board member David Akin on August 30. (3) We also benefitted from the Give Big CHQ event sponsored by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation on June 14.
- We re-elected our slate of officers at our annual meeting on September 10: President—Jim Fincher, Vice President—Bree Aggett, Treasurer—Elsa Nelson, and Secretary—Wendy Lewellen.
- The board established a presence at several events in order to increase community awareness of our organization: (1) 4H Conservation Days at the Lutheran Camp on May 23-24, (2) Rosie's Run in Sherman on June 3 (3) Big Fish Triathlon in Mayville on June 14.
- We created five standing committees with chairpersons for each: (1) Events—Micaela Young, (2) Finance—Elsa Nelson, (3) Maintenance—Keith Carrow, (4) Membership—Judy Takats and (5) Grants—Jim Fincher. We very much welcome participation from our general membership on these committees.
- CR2T currently has 13 board members and always welcomes new members! They are: Bree Aggett of Lakewood, David Akin of Mayville, Keith Carrow of Mayville, Jim Fincher of Busti, Wendy Lewellen of Bemus Point, Tom Miller of Columbia Station, Ohio, Torry Ormond of Mayville, Elsa Nelson of Bemus Point, Judy Takats of Portland, Bill Ward of Mayville, Bill Widell of Lakewood, Thom Wright of Jamestown and Micaela Young of Sherman.
- In addition to maintenance issues, we are endeavoring to construct an interactive map of our trail system and a survey of our culverts. Another challenge we are taking on is the fine tuning of our official Strategic Plan.
- We continue to partner with the Chautauqua Lake Snowmobile Club to maintain our trails.
- We continue to deal with various forms of vandalism and also damage from ATV's which are not allowed on the trails.
- Through the efforts of board member Judy Takats, we are still partnering with the Chautauqua County Hiking Club in what we call "Third Saturday Hikes."
- We constantly appreciate the mowing efforts of several land-owner/trail supporters.
- Grants we've received so far this year: (1) \$5000 grant from the Western New York Foundation for organizational capacity building. (2) \$2000 grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation (CRCF) to upgrade the gates on the rail-trail. (3) \$91,000 State and Municipal grant to replace a small culvert close to Wolebon Rd. (next to the big broken culvert—we're still working on that repair grant). (4) \$7000 CRCF grant to hire an engineering firm to survey all the culverts under the rail-trail, tell us what needs to be done to each one, and estimate the cost of repairs. (5) \$1,170 from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to purchase lumber to re-deck the old railroad bridge leading to the Frewsburg area trail.



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!*



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