

Trackin'



Bringing you news and information
about your Chautauqua Rails to Trails

Spring/Summer 2018

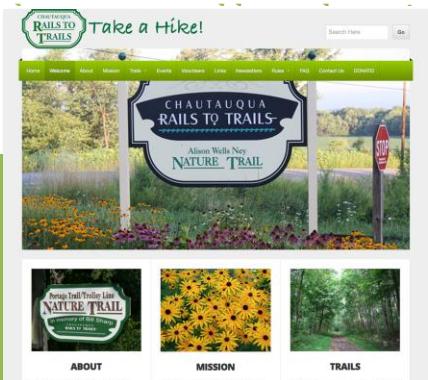


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Help us Go Green!

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From The Locomotive

By Jim Fincher – President, CR2T

Ah! Another spring. Here we are waiting for the green-up, the warm weather and lots of sun. All so we can enjoy the rail-trail again.

And what are we doing? Well. We are looking at the segment of the old Dunkirk, Allegheny Valley and Pittsburgh Railroad we own that passes from Riverside road almost to Main St in Frewsburg to see what it would take to turn that into a recreational trail. So far, it looks good.

We have changed all the padlocks on the gates on the trail. Over the years, too many keys to the locks have been given out and access to the trail has been compromised. Reports of cars and trucks using the trails spurred us to change all the locks. We have given keys to those individuals and organizations who need keys.

You might see that some gates have moved. We moved gates that didn't serve their purpose to places where they would be efficient. Next step is to re-paint all the gates.

We are busy doing things that don't immediately show up on the trail, but will at some time. Work on the strategic plan, maintenance needs, financial planning and such will show results in the future.

If you'd like a say in what we are doing, please feel free to contact us and volunteer. And let's all get out there and **take a hike**.

Check Out Our Website!

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

Sustaining Members

Chautauqua Rails to Trails would like to publicly recognize and thank our sustaining members- those who gave \$100 or more to support our trail systems.

Henry & Julie Danielson

Robert Galbraith

Les & Cheryl Johnson

Jim & Linda Moore

Don & Cathy Sinko

Kyle & Jessica Swanson

Janet Forbes

Evelyn Thorndike

Cole Werble

Your support and generosity help make Chautauqua Rails to Trails possible. Thank you!



Give Big CHQ

By Bree Aggett, CR2T Vice President

Something BIG is coming June 14.

For its 40th anniversary, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation is partnering with GiveGab, a leading expert in giving days, to host the region's first 24-hour online fundraising event, Give Big CHQ!

Chautauqua Rails to Trails is one of more than 65 local, nonprofit organizations participating in this day of giving. Check out the complete list, and share our fundraising page by visiting givebigchq.org!

Over the course of the day, we are invited to compete in various giving challenges, which could result in extra funding for Chautauqua Rails to Trails. In total, CRCF intends to give out \$15,000 in prizes to organizations.

Here are some key giving times for these challenges:

- 5:00am-6:00am: CHQ Sunrise Power Hour
- 7:00am-8:00am: Golden Ticket Hour
- 9:00am-10:00am: Coffee Hour Kickoff
- 10:00am-11:00am: Golden Ticket Hour
- 12:00pm-1:00pm: Lunch Hour Mania Power Hour
- 2:00pm-3:00pm: Golden Ticket Hour
- 5:00pm-6:00pm: Drive @ 5 Power Hour
- 6:00pm-7:00pm: Give Big CHQ Celebration Power Hour
- 8:00pm-9:00pm: Golden Ticket Hour
- 10:00pm-11:00pm: Night Owl Power Hour

If you are able to support our organization, please save the date- June 14- and make a donation during one of these key times! We will be emailing you and posting updates about the event as it happens.



Third Saturday Co-Sponsored Hikes

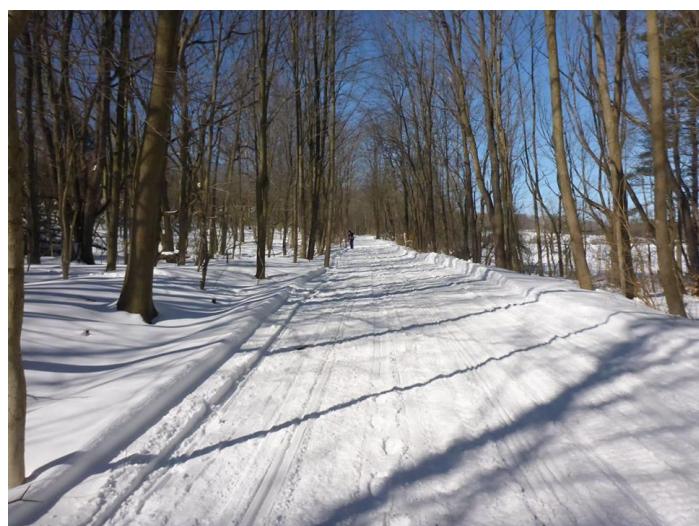
By Judy Takats, CR2T Membership Secretary

We missed out on a few hikes due to weather and other circumstances since the last 'Trackin'' was published. However, we were able to get a few hikes in with our friends from the Chautauqua County Hiking Club. Here are a few snapshots from our travels.

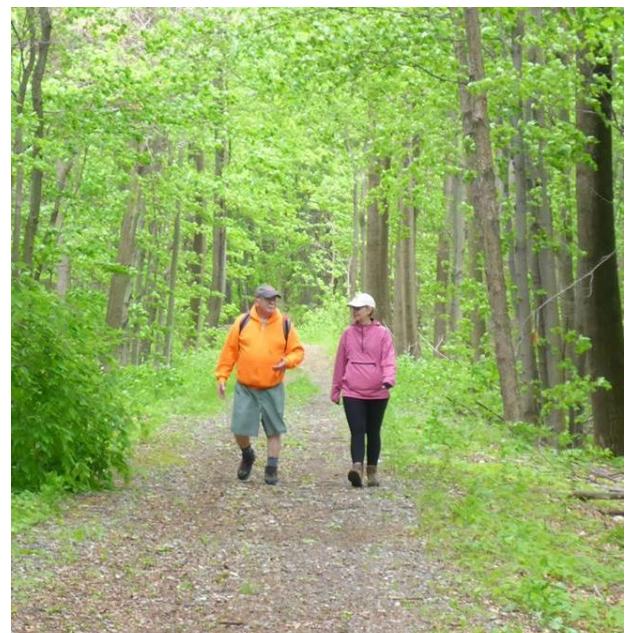
December Hike at Chautauqua Institution



March Hike- Along the Rail Trail, Starting at Mayville Lakeside Park



May Hike- Along the Rail Trail, Starting at Prospect Station



Nature Finds a Way

By Jeff Tome, Audubon Community Nature Center

People will ask why we spend our time and energy on a bike trail. This article by Jeff Tome, Senior Naturalist at the Audubon Community Nature Center of Jamestown, was published in The Post-Journal, Jamestown, NY on April 29, 2018 which we edited and extracted from, is part of the reason why we bother.

"The earth laughs in flowers" according to a line in a poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Flowers can certainly bring joy to people. It was evident on a recent hike on an old rail bed that runs from Riverside Road to Warren that people were desperate for a splash of color on a recent Earth Day hike.

Splashes of color were celebrated. Bright yellow Colt's Foot popped out of the soil, similar to a merry dandelion. Hepatica bloomed on ridges mounded along the trail, in whites, pinks and purples. Bright green leek leaves dotted the forest in large patches. After a long winter of browns, whites and grays, the colors were almost shocking. It was an absolute delight to see all the signs of spring popping up. The patches of spring made everyone smile.

It seems appropriate on this old railroad bed. The trail is wide and straight and clear, designed, perhaps, to bring coal from Pennsylvania to the old power plant in Dunkirk, New York. The people who built it are long gone, leaving echoes of their passing in the straight line through the landscape and the machines rusting into the ground near the trail. Large mounds line the trail in some parts and green, algae-ridden ditches in others. A large clear pool next to the trail glows blue-green in the sun.



Photo Credit: Edwin Ortiz

The railroad is long-gone, too, and nature is slowly reclaiming the remains. The wet areas near the trail are full of the red-brown streaked, tent-shaped Skunk Cabbage flowers and the budding green of Cowslip soon to bloom. The ditches by the railroad now serve as breeding grounds for Wood Frogs and salamanders. Green herons, small one-foot high herons with bright yellow legs and a blue-green back, wade through the old ditches searching for food.

There are many of these old abandoned railroad beds throughout the area. Rails to Trails is a national organization that helps turn them into trails for biking, hiking, and relaxing.

Chautauqua Rails to Trails is a non-profit group that owns and maintains trails throughout Chautauqua County. Many of them go through beautiful natural areas full of forests, flowers and other amazing natural features. Learn more about Chautauqua Rails to Trails at <http://www.chaurtt.org>.

Both of these trails are filled with abundant wildlife. Bald Eagles soar overhead, while ducks dive and dip into the water. Wooded sections are home to deer, rabbits and other animals that scurry out of the trail as bikes go past.

These trails are relics of a bygone age that are repurposed for people to use. I love getting out on the trails to bike, hike and wander. The wildflowers are starting to pop up along the wooded edges of the trails. Birds are singing in the bushes. Spring is in the air, and these trails provide a fantastic place to get out and experience the season.

Nature, or Vandals?

By Jim Fincher, CR2T President



The rest shelter at Thayer Road was found in the woods in the middle of March. We initially thought that vandals had tipped the shelter into the woods. Upon further thought and conversation, the facts didn't seem to support our theory. There were no obvious footprints on the side of the shelter nearest the trail nor were there obvious footprints on the sides of the shelter. The footprints would have to have been there if people tipped over the structure. However, the snow was disturbed on the sides, but again, no obvious footprints. A strong wind might have been the culprit, but the structure has been in place, year round, for at least 3 years. It has faced vicious winds before with no adverse effects. The closed sides of the shelter faced the west, and prevailing winds. A vicious easterly wind is much less common than a westerly wind.



Here is an alternate view of the Thayer Road shelter in the woods on its side.

A few days later, we discovered a similar shelter erected by the snowmobile club at Titus Road to be on its back. It had been in place for at least 15 years. Its back is to the west. When discovered, the snow was pretty much melted around it; no footprints or tire tracks were evident and no damage to the structure from a vehicle hit could be seen either. A close examination showed virtually no rotted wood that would account for the structure to fall over. The base of the shelter was still on the ground, in its original position, indicating people did not tip it over. But, the nails that held the sides to the base had pulled out of the base. That indicated a very strong blast of wind from the east ripped the roof and sides off the shelter and laid it down.



The picture above is of the damaged shelter at Titus Road. So, our detective work indicates the damage at Titus Road was probably an act of nature. The damage at Thayer Road appears to most likely an act of nature also, but vandalism is a possibility. We'll never know for sure.

The snowmobile club has told us they are going to retrieve the shelter and place it somewhere else on their trail. Our thanks to Mac McCausland for his careful work picking up the shelter from the woods at Thayer Red and placing it back where it came from. He spent a lot of time with two pieces of heavy equipment and lots of wooden blocks retrieving the shelter. The shelter lost only one shingle. Great job. Thanks, Mac.

My Recumbent Trike

By Wendy Lewellen, CR2T Recording Secretary

In June of 2015 I had major surgery on my right foot—a mid-foot fusion. Recovery was, as my surgeon warned me, “Not for the faint-hearted.” It continues today. Having experienced the agony of an *elective* surgery, I vowed to take no chances of sustaining an injury and perhaps an unplanned surgery from an accident, like falling on a bicycle. I needed a way to get safe aerobic exercise, since my faulty foot prevented me from rigorous walking and hiking. With two back surgeries in my history I knew that my problematic lower back handled workouts well on a recumbent exercise bike in my house; hence, my decision to explore recumbent tricycles for outdoor use. I wanted to be as accident-proof as possible.

It just so happens that the premier distributor of all recumbent cycles of all types in the Tri-State area is the “Bicycle Man” in Alfred Station, New York. The guys who work there considered my home in Bemus Point to be “in the neighborhood.” (It takes me an hour and 45 minutes to drive there.)

There are two types of trikes: the Tadpole, which has two wheels in front, and the Delta, which has two wheels in back. After testing several models I purchased the “Avenue One” Tadpole trike. It was more affordable than many others. I have never regretted the purchase. It has allowed me to tool around regularly, weather permitting at Long Point Park by my house, or zip down to Bemus Point.

I can throw it into the back of my mini-van and explore our trail system. (My husband engineered a simple ramp to make this easier. They do make collapsible, foldable models, but they cost quite a bit more.) I cover way more distance than I could on foot. It has 24 gears (three on the left and eight on the right) which gives me control of how aerobic I want my exercise to be and it has hand brakes. It usually handles the trail just fine with the exception of wet grass going uphill and deep gravel. Mud is problematic. It sits very low to the ground, which I like. What I love most about my trike is that it allows me to freely and safely look

around at my surroundings without worrying about taking a spill from an unnoticed rock or hole.

The Bicycle Man people are terrific and even sent me the t-shirt in the photo. In the back of my mind is the realization that this will serve me well in old age. I get outside, and I get exercise. Sexy? Definitely not. I think many passersby assume I have “special needs,” which I guess I do. Kids think my trike looks like fun.

The fact that our trail system follows railroad routes provides for minimal hills and curves, unlike the county trail system. Visit or Google “The Bicycle Man” if recumbent bikes or trikes are a possibility for you. Tell them Wendy from Bemus Point sent you.



Wendy Lewellen on her Trike

A Party and a Farewell

By Breeanne Aggett, CR2T Vice President

In lieu of a traditional December board meeting, we held a Pre-Holiday Party for members and potential members at Webb's Captain's Table. All of our board meetings are open to members, and so we wanted to hold this meeting as a reminder of our "open door policy." Our meetings are typically held on the first Monday of the month at 7pm at Webb's Captain's Table.

We enjoyed snacks, treats, and beverages with old friends and new friends. We talked about opportunities for the future of the trails, and what it means to be a member.



The event was also a great opportunity to officially bid farewell to long-time treasurer MJ Albert.

According to MJ, she mentioned to Dr. Berke that she was sometimes bored shortly after her retirement. And with that, she was "railroaded" into the job of treasurer at CR2T. But with her financial background, she did a great job, and that she knew half the people in the county allowed her to make many things happen that probably wouldn't have otherwise. We really appreciate MJ. Enjoy your well-deserved official retirement!



Nickels for the Rail Trail

By Breeanne Aggett, CR2T Vice President

We all have a few cans and bottles sitting around just waiting to be returned to the store for a few measly dollars. Some of us, the really ambitious folks, have bags of returnables polluting their basements. If you've ever needed a little encouragement to get your act together and clean up these messes of various sizes, this article is for you.

Accounts have been set up at the Southside Redemption Center on Foote Avenue in Jamestown and at Don's Car Wash in Lakewood to collect donations for Chautauqua Rails to Trails.

Here's what you do.

-Build up the courage to overcome your piling bags of returnables.

-Walk over to said returnables.

-Separate the cans, plastics, and glass bottles into various bags, bins, or boxes. While you're doing this, toss the plastic bottle caps in the trash or recycling bin, depending on your locality's pick-up guidelines.

-Travel to either the Southside Redemption Center or Don's Car Wash.

-Take in and drop off your returnable cans and bottles.

-Tell the attendant to add the total refund to the Chautauqua Rails to Trails account.

-Walk out, enjoy the freedom from your mess, and know that you helped contribute to a worthy organization that works to make the world a better place.

Need an address?

Southside Redemption Center
1752 Foote Avenue Jamestown, NY

Don's Car Wash
184 East Fairmount Avenue Lakewood, NY

CR2T Store

By Breeanne Aggett, CR2T Vice President

Need a gift for a friend? Want to think about your favorite trail system every day? Purchase one or more of our new Chautauqua Rails to Trail branded items.



The following items are available:

Coffee Mug- \$10.00

Collapsible Water Bottle- \$6.00

Koozie (Blue or Pink)- \$3.00

Keychain Carabiner (Green or Black)- \$3.00

To order, email Wendy Lewellen, (wslewellen@gmail.com) listing the item and quantity you would like.

Stay tuned for the CR2T Store coming to our website soon! www.chaurtt.org



Wine Walk Fundraiser to be Held on July 20, 2018

By Breeanne Aggett, CR2T Vice President

If your friends are always inviting you to participate in a challenging athletic event, but you just don't feel ready to accept..

If you're looking for a reason to get out on a Friday in early Summer..

If you like to take in the sights and sounds of nature..

If you could drink rosé all day..

If you to eat snacks..

If acoustic music makes you smile..

If you like to financially support your neighborhood trail organization..

..the Chautauqua Rails to Trails Wine Walk might be a good fit for you.

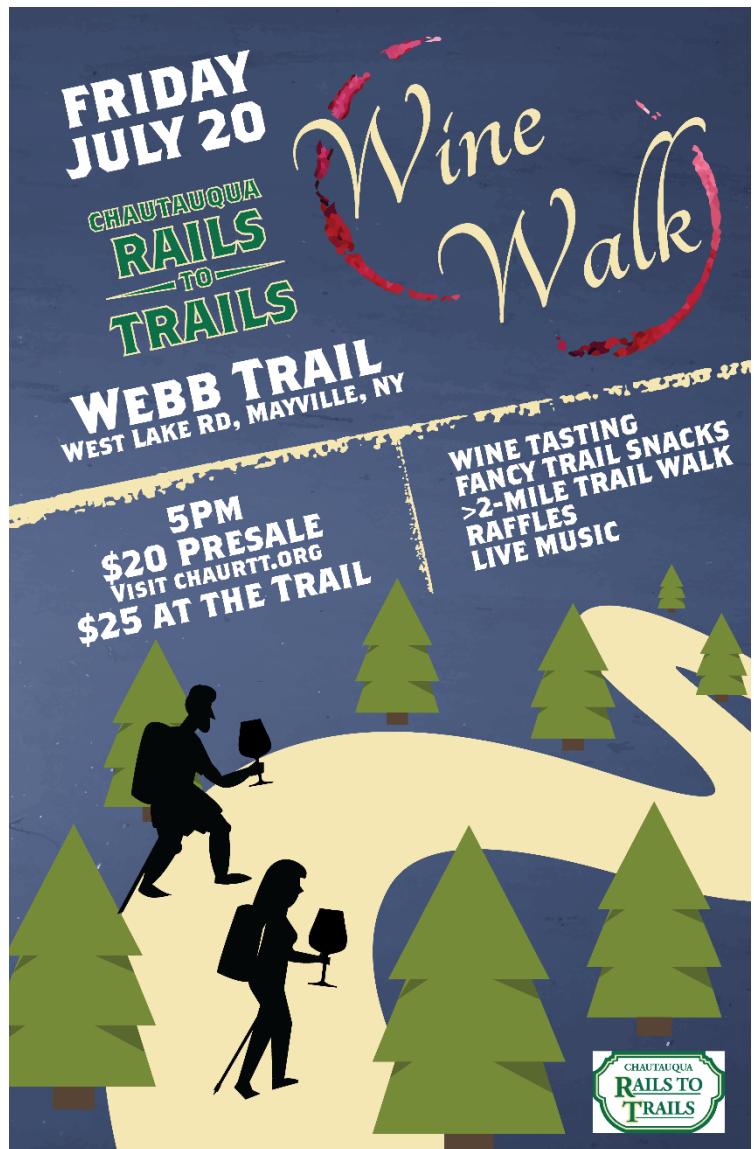
Please consider joining us for the Wine Walk on July 20, 2018, 5-7pm at the Webb Trail in Mayville.

Here's what you can expect:

- A commemorative stemless wine glass.
- An easy <2-mile hike (1 mile out, 1 mile back).
- Several wine stops along the hike.
- The musical styles of Bill Ward and Derek Houser.
- Fancy trail snacks to pair with your wine along the way (cheese, crackers, Rails to Trail Mix, etc.).
- Raffles to try your luck.

Cost: \$20 pre-sale on our website chaurtt.org, or \$25 at the Trail on 7/20

If you have questions, please contact Elsa Nelson at elsamnelson@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook page or webpage for updates on the event.





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