

Trackin'



Bringing you news and information
about your Chautauqua Rails to Trails

Spring/Summer 2019

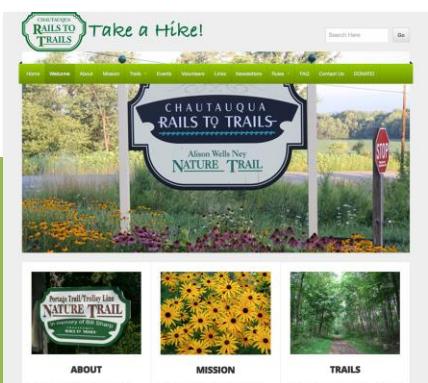


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Help us Go Green!

If you are receiving a paper copy, but would prefer a full-color electronic copy of Trackin', please email cr2t@chaurtt.org and let us know!



From The Locomotive

By Jim Fincher – President, CR2T

Another winter is in our rearview mirror. A very wet spring Summer is here and it's very welcome. This summer ought to be very active in the Rails to Trails community. We've got the bridge in Frewsburg cleared of its old decking, treated 2 x 6 lumber laid down, and we have Larch planks screwed to the top of the treated lumber to provide the old bridge a brand new deck. After that, we start filling in the holes in the trail. If all goes well, we'll have an official opening this summer.

We've adopted a strategic plan to help guide our activities through the upcoming years. We were very active in the Community Foundation Give Big CHQ day of giving project. I'm sure you heard more about that giving opportunity that occurred on June 13. The village of Sherman and we are changing the name of the trail from the Sherman Village Park to Park Street in honor of Rosie Billquist, a very active trail runner and bicyclist whose life was tragically cut short in November 2017. We have a shopping list of culverts that need attention- anything from clearing out to replacing. There will be plenty of opportunities for volunteers to help us with those projects! There is so much going on- more than we have room for here. Thank you for your support and appreciation of the trails.

Check Out Our Website!

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

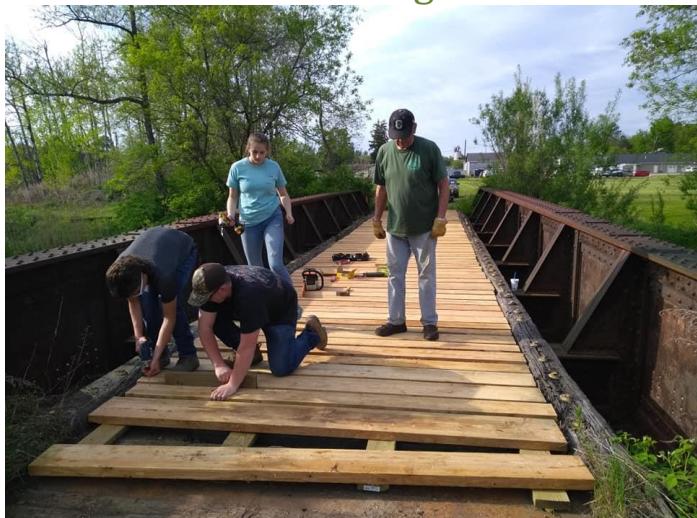
Frewsburg Trail Update

Before we can transport any fill or heavy machines to the Frewsburg Trail to get it ready for human passage, we needed to tackle the re-decking of a bridge over Frews Run creek- just behind Lobb's Auto Service Center. This spring, we were able to accomplish this task with the help of 3 Falconer students and a few grumpy old men.

There is much more work still to go, but we are on our way.

We owe big thanks to Thom Wright, Aubin Barber, Colin Bentley, Devon Swan, and Pat and Jim Fincher for their commendable efforts.

Work in Progress



The Final Product



CR2T Holiday Happy Hour



On December 3rd, we gathered with CR2T members, friends and family for carols, cookies, and cocktails at Big Inlet Brewing in Mayville. The happy hour was an opportunity to share trail updates, celebrate a great year, and simply have fun in good company. We sang festive songs, drank some good brews, and raised a little money for the trail. The beautiful new facility was packed full of Chautauqua Rails to Trails supporters. Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed the evening with us.

Big thanks to our friends at Big Inlet for hosting us, and to the talented musical artists who entertained us.



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.

November Hike- SUNY Fredonia Campus



December- Christmas Eve Hike at Prospect Station



January Hike- Westside Overland Trail in Sherman



April Hike- Westfield History Hike

No photo available

May Hike- Titus Road in Sherman



St. Patty's Day Weekend Fundraiser

By Wendy Lewellen, CR2T Secretary

Fun and fundraising were the outcomes of an event on Saturday, March 16 at the Bemus Point Golf Course and Tap House. Proprietors Rachael and Bryce Steffen teamed up with Loud Performance Products and Five and 20 Spirits & Brewing to raise money for Chautauqua Rails to Trails.

The event, "Tapped Out Bike & Brew and Leprechaun Dash 5K," featured a run at noon and biking at two. Afternoon music was provided by Jesse James Weston and evening entertainment was supplied by Ryan Buzzetto.

Chautauqua Rails to Trails expresses gratitude to the three aforementioned establishments for the funds incurred. CR2T faces daunting financial challenges in its efforts to repair many failing culverts, to meet myriad trail maintenance needs and to advance the establishment of a new Frewsburg area trail. The board welcomes the participation of new members, especially of supportive people in the Frewsburg/Kiantone area.



Pictured are sponsors and recipients at the March 16 event. Kneeling are Rachael and Bryce Steffen. Standing left to right are Torry Ormond and Wendy Lewellen of Chautauqua Rails to Trails, Dee Dippel and Murl Kinal of Loud Performance Products, and Lora Pirrello and Bob Dahl of Five and 20 Spirits & Brewing.

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

Wine Walk 2019

By Bree Aggett, CR2T Vice President

Our 2nd Annual Wine Walk is scheduled for Friday, July 26 4:00-7:00 pm, with a rain date set aside for Friday, August 2. We are very excited to share that CR2T Members will enjoy a \$5 discount on Wine Walk tickets this year. Pre-sale tickets are available on our website (www.chaurtt.org) or on our Facebook page until June 24.

Last year, we had 200 walkers/drinkers on the trail- this year, we're hoping to bring in 300 people.

What can you expect?

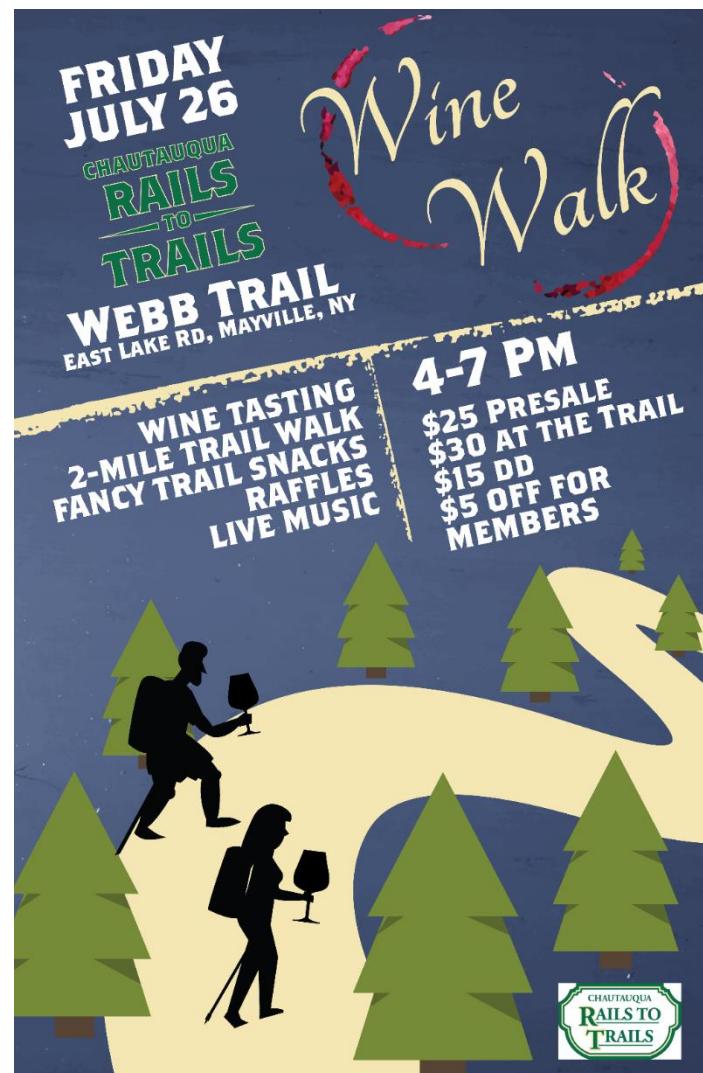
- A two-mile hike on the scenic Webb trail in the charming Village of Mayville.
- Five to six wine stations featuring a sweet and a dry option and a trail snack to pair.
- Music on the trail.

What's new for 2019?

- Planned spacing for start times. Walkers can choose a half-hour time slot.
- Even better snacks.
- This year, the event will be smoke-free.

Calling all Sommeliers!

Want to be a part of the party, but not interested in drinking wine on the trail? Join us as a volunteer! We need people to help with pouring wine, handing out trail snacks, and helping at the registration table. If you're interested in volunteering, please send an email to Bree at Breeanne.Neal@gmail.com.



Visit our website (chaurtt.org) and follow our Facebook page for more information and tickets!

The Life Cycle of a Beaver Pond

A throwback from the Fall 2005 Trackin'

Just as in 2005, beavers continue to be one of our main problems on the trail! We hope you enjoy this little throwback article.

Last time I looked, there were no beavers in the Titus Road wetland or the Portage Trail wetland, though there were lots of beavers north of the Titus Road swamp, along the trail. Rest assured, the beavers will come back.

Did you know this about our favorite nemesis?

The sound of rushing water seems to be as annoying to a beaver as the sound of fingernails on a blackboard is to humans. Beavers will pile up sticks and mud in any spot they hear that sound until they no longer hear it.

This explains in one go why beavers always pick the narrowest and most shallow section of stream to build their dams- it's because that's where the noise is. And they continue piling up sticks and mud in that spot until that annoying sound is

silenced. Surely there is an instinctive part of making dams but it might also be said that beavers build dams because they like peace and quiet. When beavers move into an area, they often build a dam that floods the area and eventually kills most of the trees in the flood plain.

In addition to water killed trees, the beavers gnaw and fell a lot of the trees in the area for food. When the trees that can be used for food are all gone, the beavers tend to move on. After that, the water source fills what used to be the beaver pond with silt, and the dam disintegrates, leaving a "meadow," also known as a vega (Spanish for fertile valley). The meadow becomes a habitat for many other species of creature, and will eventually become part of the surrounding forest once again.

Thus, beavers can be an aggravation, but are simply part of the cycle of things in nature. Let's appreciate them for what they are and what they do.





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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