

# Trackin'



Bringing you news and information  
about your Chautauqua Rails to Trails

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

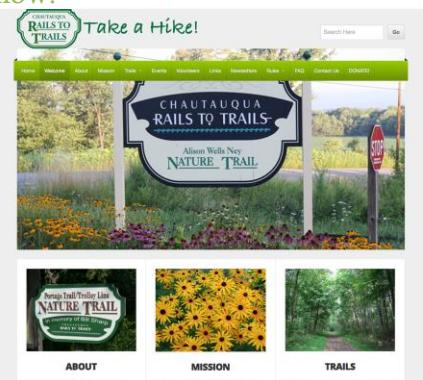


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### Help us Go Green!

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## From The Locomotive

**By Jim Fincher – President, CR2T**

There's a lot of things going on in the Rails to Trails world. Here is mention of a few of them. Building the trail from Riverside Rd to Main St in Frewsburg got derailed by the beavers and the water their dams backed up. We are going to resume trying to lower the water with beaver bafflers so we can add gravel to the path and have a trail. The trail on the old Pennsylvania rail road line from Sherman to the state line near Corry is receiving a lot of attention. Pat Johnson, the retired county jail warden and big time bicyclist is heading up an effort to acquire permission to use the rails as a recreational trail. The Village of Sherman is quite interested in making this happen, too. We have volunteered to help make Sherman a trail town. The 2019 Wine Walk was very successful and will again happen on July 24, 2020. Mark your calendar. Our February board meeting featured a lot of brainstorming. Mentioned were organizing a half marathon, a run/walk, a beer walk fundraiser (like the wine walk but featuring beer), and marking all the culverts from Plank Road to Brocton. We will also plan to organize a "clear the trail" committee so the trail can be assured of being cleared of branches and winter debris. Most all these efforts need help. If you could help make them come true, please contact us. My phone number is 665-3246 or you could email us at [cr2t@chaurtt.org](mailto:cr2t@chaurtt.org). Thank you- and don't forget to TAKE A HIKE!

## Check Out Our Website!

For the latest and greatest information, check us out on the web today at [www.chaurtt.org](http://www.chaurtt.org).

## All Aboard...

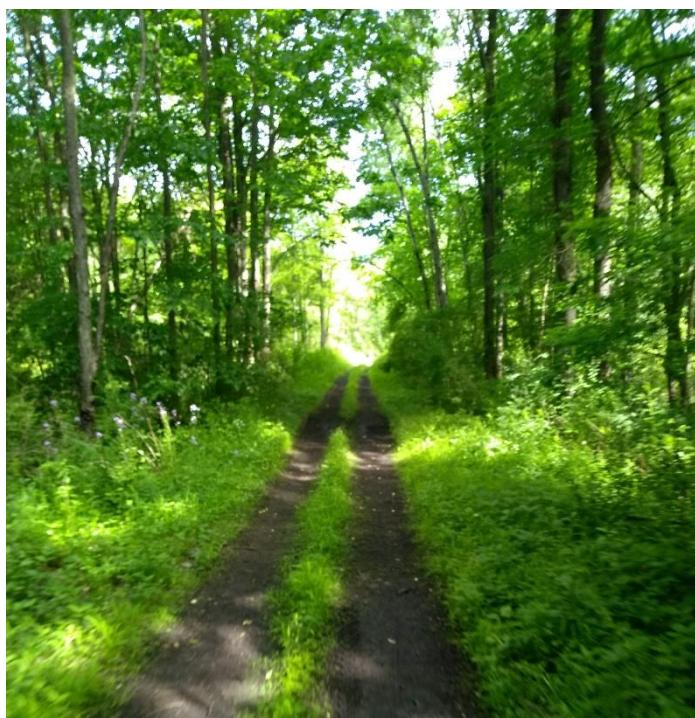
### Frewsburg Trail Update

By Thom Wright, Board Member

It is expected that by mid-Summer, Frewsburg residents and visitors alike will be able to enjoy a leisurely stroll, morning jog or a bike ride on CR2T's newest trail. The natural surface rail to trail will run from Riverside Road up to Main Street in Frewsburg, NY. The Audubon Community Nature Center is behind this project, and the trail will be accessed approximately 500 yards down from their parking lot.

Although CR2T has owned this 1.8 miles of the trail for several years, it was not until John Lobb came to the trail's rescue by allowing it to continue through his property at Lobb's Auto Service Center. Mr. Lobb has gone even further with plans to allow for public parking out behind his business for the purpose of trail use.

Over the last year, the existing railroad bridge was resurfaced and this coming Spring and early Summer we expect to clear the corridor which has several overgrown sections, as well as some trail surface work. There is still work to be done, but we expect an opening by Early August.



## CR2T Holiday Happy

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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

Another year has come and gone and our 3rd Saturday Co-Sponsored Hikes are still going strong. Beginning in September 2016, we have hiked some beautiful familiar trails, discovered some new trails and made new friends along the way.

Jim Holler met with our CR2T group at Lakeside Park in Mayville and presented a program outlining the main principles of the Leave No Trace organization. More details on this event in a separate article!

In July, Eileen took a group of beach hikers to Point Gratiot in Dunkirk to enjoy the cool breezes, collect sea glass, and visit the lighthouse.



In August, Nancy White led us on a wonderful and informative hike in an old growth forest at the Audubon Nature Conservancy in Jamestown.



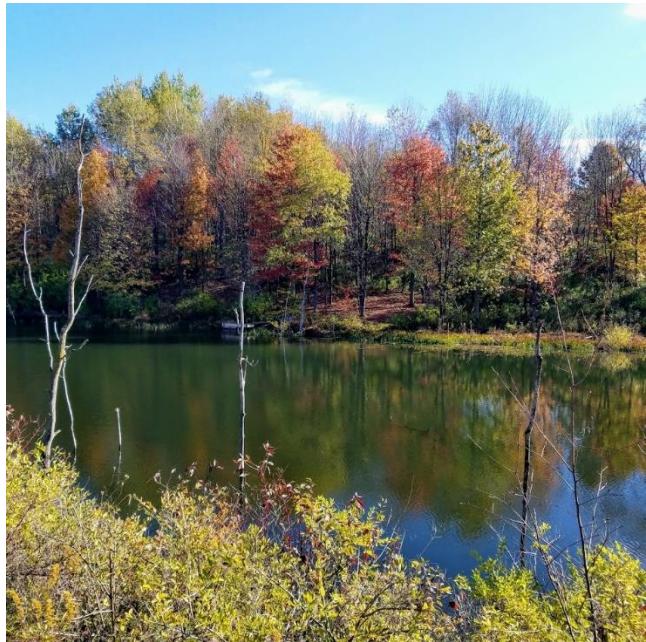
The September hike took us from the Prospect Trailhead to Woleben Rd with a rest stop at our favorite Speilberg swing.



The Prospect Station Trailhead now houses a new Book Exchange box, compliments of David Akin.



October always brings us back to the Sheldon Trail starting at Titus Road in Sherman. The fall colors along this trail are unsurpassed.



Our November Hike was along the Village of Mayville Trail with a detour to the cemetery. Hike leader John Boser was joined by our local historian, Devon Taylor, who gave an informative and historical account of this area.



Last but not least, our Christmas Eve memorial hike was to the site of the Prospect Station Trailhead. A moment of silence, a remembrance, music, hot chocolate and Christmas cookies has become a yearly tradition.



We hope you will join us on one of our 3rd Saturday hikes. We always need and welcome new ideas, new trails and new leaders! Come join us and take a hike!



## Board Member List

Chautauqua Rails to Trails Board of Directors as of January, 2020:

Bree Aggett—Lakewood  
 Dave Akin—Mayville  
 Keith Carrow—Mayville  
 Dee Dippel—Bemus Point  
 Jim Fincher—Jamestown  
 Ginny King—Sherman  
 Bob Lannon—Mayville  
 Wendy Lewellen—Bemus Point  
 Tom Miller—Maple Springs  
 Elsa Nelson—Bemus Point  
 Judy Takats—Portland  
 Bill Ward—Mayville  
 Dena Ward—Mayville  
 Thom Wright—Jamestown



New Board Members (L to R): Bob Lannon, Ginny King, Dena Ward, and Dee Dippel

## Membership and Volunteer Update

By Judy Takats, CR2T Membership Secretary

Thank you all for your continued support by renewing your membership each year.

We also have a growing volunteer list. Volunteering can be anything from help with our events (wine walk, bluegrass festival t -shirt sale etc.) to help with trail cleanup, mowing the lawn at trailheads, membership mailings, or leading a hike.

If you think your membership has lapsed, please contact Judy Takats at [jtakats@gmail.com](mailto:jtakats@gmail.com) for a status update. We are currently at 106 members.

Meetings take place on the first Monday of the month. All members are welcome!



Board member Bill Ward clears a fallen tree from the Alison Wells Ney Trail.

# Annual Meeting 2019

By Wendy Lewellen, Recording

The board of directors of our organization held its annual meeting at the Viking Lake Park. In addition to ten of our eleven directors, we welcomed eight guests. We welcomed their input. As always, interested trail lovers are invited to each and every meeting. CR2T meets the first Monday of every month at 7 PM. Most, but not all, meetings are held at Webb's in Mayville. Some of the highlights of old business included a status report on our ongoing work to develop our trail in Frewsburg, a progress report from our president, Jim Fincher, on various grant applications, water chestnuts on the Sheldon Trail, progress on our interactive trail map, construction of some French drains near Prospect Station and also Honeysette Road, and various other trail improvement efforts.

In new business, a slate of officers was presented by the nominations committee. Re-elected unanimously were: President—Jim Fincher, Vice President—Bree Aggett, Treasurer—Elsa Nelson and Secretary—Wendy Lewellen. We also voted to approve the addition of three new board members: Dee Dippel of Bemus Point, Bob Lannon of Mayville and Dena Ward from Mayville. We looked over the recent publication of Electric Bicycle (“E Bike”) policy by the National Parks Service and agreed to follow it. Several fund raising ideas were proposed. Solutions to a variety of trail problems were discussed. We concurred that we need to continue to work cooperatively with the Chautauqua Lake Snowmobile Club. Refreshments were offered and a pleasant evening on the shore of Chautauqua Lake was concluded.

## Leave No Trace

By Jim Fincher, President

Jim Holler (hidden in the background in this picture) led a presentation about the Leave No Trace program at the Mayville Village park and on the Webb trail. He demonstrated ways people leave inadvertent and purposeful marks on the natural beauty of our land and ways to overcome these blights. The presentation started with showing how to prepare for a hike the woods, long and short term and ended with a hike on the trail showing how the lessons learned earlier could be put to use. Overall, the experience was worthwhile and useful in helping keep our county beautiful.



# Invasion

By Jim Fincher, President



Pictured: Ray Carlson and Chloe Petry

We have been infected (gladly not with the coronavirus!) with an invasive species of water plant. The swampy wetland along the trail just north of the Titus Road trailhead has water chestnut growing in it. Not a lot, but enough to be of concern. If we don't pull the plants, they will eventually choke the surface of the water with their leaves, block sunlight from native plants and affect the animals that live in the water. This past fall, we pulled 5 garbage bags full of the plant from the water and began to make a dent in the problem. However, we got there too late to remove the plants before their seeds matured and dropped to the bottom. Two volunteers who had experience gained dealing with the plant in the large pond at the Audubon Community Nature Center came to our aid and did most of the pulling.

We'll go back on the swampy area, probably in May, before the chestnut seeds mature and before other plants begin to grow strongly so we can see the chestnut plants easily. We'll be looking for volunteers who like the water and don't mind roughing it (i.e. mud, cool water, etc.). Please contact us if you'd like to play. There may be other invasive plants along the trail and we are working with a group from Buffalo to identify them.

# E-Bike Policy

By Dee Dippel, Board Member

CR2T has developed a policy for the use of electric bikes (e-bikes) on the trails. Below is a general description and classification system used to describe the e-bike policy. This information was obtained from the Rail to Trails Conservancy, National Park Service, and People for Bikes. Class I e-bikes are allowed on all CR2T Trails, Class II e-bikes are allowed but encouraged for limited use, and Class III e-bikes are not allowed on any CR2T trails. Proper Trail Etiquette and Behavior rules still apply and need to be reinforced at all times.

## Classification of E-bikes

The bike industry developed a three-tier classification system for e-bikes. This system is based on the power source and maximum assisted speed of the bicycle.

Class I e-bikes are those in which the motor provides a boost only when a rider is pedaling. The boost cuts out at 20 mph, and the rider must rely on their own muscle power to go any faster. (Allowed)

Class II e-bikes are those in which the throttle can be switched to provide a boost up to a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph, without any pedaling required. The boost cuts out at 20 mph, and the rider must rely on their own muscle power to go any faster. (Limited Use – allowed based on physical & medical limitations of the user, and could be either 2 or 3 wheel configurations)

Class III e-bikes are pedal-assist like Class I's, except they have a maximum assisted speed of 28 mph. They are also equipped with a speedometer. (Not Allowed)

Typically, where e-bikes have been allowed off-road on multiuse trails, they have been Class I's and Class II's, and are subject to the same rules and regulations that govern other cyclists.

Maintain safe speeds. Heed all posted speed limits. Keep right, pass left and call out as you do. Yield to pedestrians, and other slower trail users.

# Rosie Billquist Trail Dedication

By Bree Aggett, Vice President

On Saturday, September 7, we gathered at the former Village of Sherman Nature Trail Trailhead to dedicate this section of trail to the memory of Rosemary Billquist. Rosie's life was tragically cut short in November 2018 as a result of a hunting accident.

Rosie grew up in Sherman, and at the time of her death, lived on Armenian Road at her family's homestead with her husband Jamie.

Rosie was an avid runner, bicyclist, and outdoor enthusiast. She was a notoriously kind woman who volunteered for Hospice and the Chautauqua County Humane Society, among other personal interests.

Rosie was an inspiration to the people of Sherman, and we are hopeful that seeing her name on the trail every day will continue to inspire others to be kind and live life to the fullest.



CR2T Board Members and Jamie with the new sign

At the dedication ceremony, Rosie's husband Jamie Billquist spoke to honor her memory, in addition to representatives from the Village of Sherman, Chautauqua County, and Chautauqua Rails to Trails. Several individuals from the community joined us to remember Rosie and celebrate the trail renaming.

The Rosemary Billquist Memorial Fund supported the purchase of the new sign at the trailhead and

also donated \$500 to Chautauqua Rails to Trails to be used for any needed expenses.



Rosie's family: Jamie Billquist, Al Jifarjian, Stacey Jifarjian, and Marygrace Jifarjian.

After the ceremony, guests were invited to take a hike along the Rosie Trail. Many took us up on the offer, and were able to enjoy the beautiful late-summer day.

We hope that you will visit the Rosie Trail and enjoy the beautiful scenery that it has to offer. The Trailhead is located near the corner of Main and Osborne Streets in Sherman.

# Wine Walk

By Bree Aggett, Vice President

We held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Wine Walk on Friday, July 26, 2019. Nearly 300 people joined us at the Webb Trail in Mayville to enjoy local wine, music, and nature.



We owe many thanks to the wineries, purveyors of food, and musicians who contributed to the event, which helped raise nearly \$6,000 to maintain the trail system.

Wineries who participated included Five & 20, Johnson Estate, Woodbury Vineyards, Merritt Estate Winery, and Liberty Vineyards. JB Liquor also provided discounts on champagne for the occasion, while Willow Creek Winery donated wine that was used for prizes.

Food donors included Reach Chocolates and The Basket Company. Additional food was purchased.



Music was provided by local artists including Derek Houser, Claud Shuckers, and Rebecca McIlvain. These beautiful photos, and many others were donated by Kirk Love Photography.



Each year, we learn about ways we can improve, make this event more fun for guests, and more profitable for our organization. If you would like to volunteer or offer any suggestions, please contact us through Facebook Messenger, or our email [chaurtt2014@gmail.com](mailto:chaurtt2014@gmail.com).

We are currently planning to hold the 2020 Wine Walk on Friday, July 24 on the Webb Trail. Stay tuned for more details!



## 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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