



Trackin' Summer 2022 Edition

Bringing you news and information about Chautauqua Rails to Trails that took place in the Summer of 2022.



From the Locomotive

By Bill Ward, President

Wow, where do we start? It has been an incredibly productive year for Chautauqua Rails to Trails. As you can read from the articles below, the projects, progress, and production from our talented board, gifted project managers, and enthusiastic partners have exceeded our goals.

We are thrilled with the progress we've made repairing and resurfacing the trails, as well as the dramatic increase in trail usage in Chautauqua county.

Heading into our annual meeting in November, we will have held a ribbon cutting for a new trail, and will be ahead of schedule for our spring projects.

It's a huge gift leading and being led by our outstanding board of directors, and my vice president T. John McCune, without whom our effort to streamline the workings of Chautauqua Rails to Trails could never have happened.

Please consider becoming a member and joining us at our board meetings which happen the first Monday of each month.

We love you all, and are so glad you're willing to "take a hike" with us.

Chautauqua County Trails Group

The Facebook group is for anyone interested in the trails of Chautauqua County, including waterway trails, hiking trails, biking trails, snowmobile trails, equestrian trails, and winter trails (skiing, snowshoeing). Feel free to post pictures of trails and wildlife (flora and fauna), historical landmarks, videos of wildlife or whatever catches your eye, trail conditions, and trail updates to keep everyone informed. You can share gear recommendations, buy/sell or trade outdoor gear, and ask about trail difficulty and best routes. We hope that the page serves as a connection between all user groups and outdoor enthusiasts who live, work, or play in Chautauqua County.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1166550607137711>

ARPA Funded Trail Improvements

By T. John McCune, Vice President

We are very thankful for the ARPA funding allocated through the county to provide much needed improvements to the Chautauqua Rails to Trails. Work was done over the summer to improve drainage on the trail in a number of needed areas.

At the Ralph C. Sheldon Jr. Trail parking lot off of Summerdale Road near Mayville, the parking lot was muddy and needed fresh gravel. The pictures below are the before and after pictures showing the improved parking lot.



Also, on the Ralph C. Sheldon Jr. Trail near Nettle Hill Road, the pictures below show the before and after of the work that was done. The area was reditched to improve the drainage of the chronically wet section, and the part of the trail near the road was resurfaced.



The pictures below are the before and after of the Alison Wells Ney Trail near School Street in Brocton. This is the start of further improvements that will take place to the trail segment between School Street and Route 20 to reduce the number of wet spots and overall trail experience.



The pictures below show the before and after of the Nadine and Paul Webb Trail near Morris Road in Mayville. Numerous drainage and re-ditching work was done to begin the improvement of that section. Especially in the spring and fall, the section used to have numerous puddles.



The Chautauqua Rails to Trails Board of Directors appreciates all the help and hard work from Rob Hetrick from Rock of WNY and his team for this summer's great trail improvements! We also appreciate all of our trail users' patience and support during the time that work was being done on the trail to make the much needed improvements.

Fincher Trail Resurfacing

By T. John McCune, Vice President



Resurfacing of the James C. “Jim” Fincher Trail Segment was done this summer between Route 430 and Honeysette Road near Mayville. This trail segment is named in honor of Chautauqua Rails to Trails President Emeritus Jim Fincher.

Prior to the resurfacing, the section of the trail closest to Honeysette Road had a few chronically wet areas over the past few years and we are happy to report that even after a lot of rain storms the trail remains nice and dry.

Before the re-surfacing began, new culverts were added and the trail has been re-ditched and regraded to improve the water drainage in the area.

We are very thankful for the support from The Sheldon Foundation, The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, and our members for their support of this major project to improve this trail segment.

More information on a ribbon cutting for this newly resurfaced trail will be coming soon!

New Trail Kiosks

By Jacob Bodway, Board Member



Trailhead kiosks are common at most trail systems in New York State and throughout the country. However, until this past summer, the Chautauqua Rails to Trails did not have any trailhead kiosks to provide information and maps to its trail-users. Fortunately, we were able to work with the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CPEG) to allocate some funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to purchase materials for four trailhead kiosks. Two of the kiosks have already been built and installed and can be found on the Webb Trail, just behind Boxcar Barneys in Mayville, and on the Fincher Trail, about 250 yards south of Route 430 in Mayville.

In cooperation with the Chautauqua Lake Central School District and the Southwestern School District, we worked with Principal Rachel Curtin from Chautauqua Lake Central School to have the kiosks constructed and installed by students and teachers from local school districts. This initiative gave the students a

sense of ownership over the project and provided them with hands-on experience that translated directly back to our community. We are expecting to install the remaining two kiosks this fall at the Titus Road and Summerdale Road trailheads. Additionally, we plan to work this winter to create new metal maps that will provide trail users with a sense of direction and will update our kiosks to match what trail-users expect to see at a modern trail head.

We hope that you enjoy the kiosks as much as we enjoyed working with Principal Curtin and all of the students who participated in this wonderful community project!

Nickels for the Rail Trail

By Thom Wright, Board Member

It's not our business what kind of beverages you like to drink, but an easy way for you to help CR2T is to drop off those empty containers at Southside Redemption Center or Don's Car Wash and donate them to the trails.

Just drop off your returnable cans and bottles and let the attendant know that they can add the total refund to the Chautauqua Rails to Trails account.

Southside Redemption Center

1752 Foote Ave, Jamestown, NY

Don's Car Wash

184 East Fairmount Ave, Lakewood, NY

How to Report Trail Maintenance Needs

For any trail maintenance needs, please contact us through the contact form on our website - <https://chaurtt.org/join-us/>

Wine Walk 2022- The Year it Rained!

By Bree Agett, Board Member



This summer, on July 23, we held our fourth annual Wine Walk on the Webb Trail in Mayville. This event has added a great deal of value to Chautauqua Rails to Trails, serving not only as a fundraiser for operating expenses (this year we raised about \$9,000!), but also a means to increase awareness about the trail system and offer a fun activity for community members and guests to the Chautauqua Region. Every year we get to eavesdrop on trail conversations, and we often hear “I didn’t even know there was a trail back here” or “this is my first time on the trail.” It is so rewarding to see that our efforts have introduced new people to the trail!

As we hold more of these events, we often reflect on past Wine Walks and refer to them by things that happened that make each year unique- sometimes good, and sometimes as an area to improve upon...

2018 was the year of the dead raccoon (whoops)

2019 was the year we needed more wine (or smaller pours!)

2020 was the year the world stopped.

2021 was the year we came back.

...and 2022 will now be known as the year it rained!

That's right- for the first time since we started hosting this event, we had to deal with some rain! It was a very warm day, and so other than ruining a few hair-dos, the rain was generally refreshing! Sadly, the dice hike tracking forms faced some damage, but we were able to make do.

This year, we featured delicious wines from Johnson Estate, Woodbury Vineyards, Noble Winery, Liberty Vineyards, Mazza Five & 20, and Willowcreek Winery. We are so grateful to the wineries who all provided full or partial wine donations for the event. Panera Bread in Lakewood also provided a donation of delicious chocolate chip cookies! Without their support, this event would be MUCH more expensive. Thank you!



The Wine Walk featured a wonderful musical line-up along the trail including the stylings of Bill Ward, Derek Houser, Sarah James, Randy Henderson and Bob Henry,

and Marcie Bird- so much diverse talent! We owe a debt of gratitude to these artists who contributed to the atmosphere and success of the event.



For the first time this year, we also sold commemorative Wine Walk T-shirts! There are some shirts remaining, and we will have information about how to purchase these on our website and Facebook page soon. Board Member Tom Miller models the t-shirt below.



Loud Peformance, bike shop and snowmobile outfitter, again generously sponsored our event wine glasses. Please support them when you can. Thank you Dee Dippel!

We would also like to express gratitude to our Trail Sign and Raffle Sponsors whose donations helped entertain guests, and also offset event costs. Our sponsors included: Martha Anderson, Andriaccio's, Chautauqua Marina, Chautauqua Institution, Fincher Family, Sorena Gilkinson, Mayville Chamber of Commerce, Moog, National Comedy Center and the Lucille Ball Museum, Neal Family, Peak 'n Peek, Pearl City Cycle, R&R Landscaping Services, and We Wan Chu Cottages/Bigfoot Expo.

Lastly, but certainly not least, thank you to the supporters, members, board members, and friends/family who volunteered time before, during, and after the event to make the Wine Walk a success for all! We could not do this without you!



Follow Us on Social Media

For more information about the Chautauqua Rails to Trails, please like our page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ChautauquaRailsToTrails>), or follow us on Instagram (ChautauquaRailstoTrails).

If you tag us on social media, please use the hashtags #CR2T and #chautauquarailstotrails

Check Out Our Website!

For the latest and greatest information, check out our website at www.chaurtt.org

Third Saturday Co-Sponsored Hikes

By Judy Takats, Membership Coordinator



We continued to hold our 3rd Saturday Hikes co- sponsored with the Chautauqua Hiking Club.

These hikes are a great opportunity to get some exercise, meet new people and learn more about the plant & bird life and history of our area.

We try to keep these hikes ‘family and pet friendly’ so we usually hike 3 – 4 miles. (1 ½ -2 hrs)

Please let us know if you have a special interest (birds, plants, insects ...?) and would like to lead us on a nature informative hike.

As always, your membership in CR2T keeps you on our “events list “ and this fall we will be adding more hikes and events.

We also continue to have our Monday Morning Hikes year around starting at 10:30 AM. If you would like to be put on the Monday list, please contact me.
(jtakats@gmail.com)

If you need to renew your membership, please go to our website and follow the links to membership/donation.

Carroll Area Nature Trail Update

By Thom Wright, Board Member



After several years, and with the support and help of many people the Carroll Area Nature Trail is ready! This new 2 mile trail runs between Riverside Road and Main Street(Route 62) in Frewsburg, NY. It is for non-motorized use for activities like hiking, biking, and horse riding.

This trail would not have been possible without the generosity of John Lobb for allowing a parking area and the trail on his property.

We are very thankful to the support of the community and neighboring property owners Mark Gage and David Bloomquist that have supported the trail development, and Chautauqua Rails to Trails President Emeritus Jim Fincher for making calls and visiting with members of the community to garner support for the proposed trail.

Work on the trail began two years ago by Trail Construction Associates. A thank you goes out to Greg Snow and Paul Mosher for their initial work on the trail, and for brush hogging this spring.

After a permit was obtained through the DEC, Mike Simanow, a local contractor helped with the last push of the trail and we appreciate his help with getting us to the finish line.

A special thanks goes out to JMI for providing discount material to make the project economically feasible.

The main parking area is at the John Lobb trail head, right behind Lobb's Auto Service Center at 129 West Main Street. Please drive through the gate and park out back by the Carroll Area Nature Trail sign. Feel free to stop in and say thanks to John Lobb, or better yet, get your car repaired or oil changed while you take a hike. There is room for 8 to 10 cars to park there.

At Riverside Road, there is a spot for a car or two at the trail entrance that is approximately 800 yards east of the Audubon Community Nature Center.

Adjacent landowners who wish to use the trail corridor to travel to their property should contact Chautauqua Rails to Trails.

Volunteers Needed

By Judy Takats, Membership Coordinator

Volunteers are always welcome and needed for helping with events such as our annual wine walk, holiday party, Christmas Eve memorial, 5K summer runs, selling T-shirts at events ... (all of course when we can get together again), trail maintenance (clearing fallen trees, inspecting culverts etc), mowing the grass at trail heads, shoveling snow at crossroads, distributing trail maps at our kiosks and many other jobs.

If you have a special trail in mind for a 3rd Saturday hike or would like to lead a hike we would love to hear from you. If you have a special knowledge of plants, mushrooms, birds or wildlife (not bears) we'd love to have you lead us on an informative hike! Contact Judy Takats at jtakats@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Since Our Last Trackin'

By Wendy Lewellen, Secretary

- We said goodbye, with extreme regret, to 10-year board member, Keith Carrow. He moved to Lake Placid, NY, and we will miss his reliability, his listening skills, and his unique and valued perspective, year after year.
- We added Abby Quattrone to the board and are delighted to take advantage of her youthful energy and fresh ideas. Welcome, Abby!
- Our president patiently navigated communication channels with the NYSDOT to attain a commitment to having crosswalks painted at our trail crossings on Rts. 394 and 430 in Mayville.
- Our membership chair, Judy Takats, doggedly worked to increase our membership numbers, and to organize 3rd Saturday Collaborative hikes with the Chautauqua County Hiking Club. Her email communications, along with snail mail outreach, have been invaluable.
- Bob Lannon continued to be our MVP of putting new signage on the trails, which included reinforcing our new metal signs in order to withstand high winds and vandalism.
- Bree Agett led the charge to garner much needed funds in June via the GiveBigCHQ drive sponsored by the CRCF. We exceeded our goal, due to donations, prize money, and some substantial matching contributions by two of our former presidents.
- Through Thom Wright's initiative, we began and finished work to make the Carroll Area Nature Trail a reality. We have sensed a lot of community support.
- Jacob Bodway's success in attaining some American Rescue Plan money resulted in the building of four kiosks by high school students and the creation of a parking area at the Summerdale trailhead.
- Committee chairs Elsa Nelson and Bree Agett pulled off another successful Wine Walk in July. The event gets better every time we stage it, thanks to their hard work and attention to detail.
- We continued to try to satisfy the demand for more trail guides and see that as evidence of the ever-increasing popularity of our trail system.
- We fixed troublesome spots like those near School Street in Brocton and Nettle Hill Road near Sherman.

Current CR2T Board of Directors

Bree Agett, Jamestown

David Akin, Mayville

Jacob Bodway, Bemus Point

Dee Dippel, Bemus Point

Patrick Johnson, Lakewood (Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Liaison)

Virginia King, Sherman (Treasurer)

Bob Lannon, Mayville

Wendy Lewellen, Bemus Point (Secretary)

T. John McCune, Fredonia (Vice President)

Tom Miller, Maple Springs

Elsa Nelson, Lakewood

Abby Quattrone, Jamestown

Judy Takats, Portland (Membership)

Bill Ward, Mayville (President)

Dena Ward, Mayville

Thom Wright, Jamestown



An Easy Way to Support CR2T: AmazonSmile

By Bree Agett, Board Member

As we run, hike and ride into our ongoing fund drive, we are trying to impress upon the public our need for financial help. Trail maintenance is an ongoing and expensive process.

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.



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!*