

TWI-LIGHTS

VOLUME 1 | SUMMER 2018

Clean Sweep

TRAIL WORKS PARTICIPATES IN THE 13TH ANNUAL "CANAL CLEAN SWEEP" EVENT

HIT THE TRAIL

WEGMANS & TRAIL WORKS DEBUT
FREE PASSPORT APP & "GO LIVE"
ON NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Leaving a Trail of Hope

NEWARK'S TRAILBLAZERS
WALKING CLUB TAKES ON
"A TRULY MAGICAL PLACE"

Trail Works, Inc. participates in the 13th annual Canal Clean Sweep



In recognition of Earth Day 2018 and in preparation for the 194th consecutive navigation season on the New York State Canal System, the New York State Canal Corporation partnered with Parks & Trails New York to sponsor the 13th Annual *Canal Clean Sweep* during the weekend of April 20th—22nd, 2018.

As part of this multi-community celebration, Trail Works, Inc. volunteers hosted the 2018 community Canal Clean Sweep. We had 14 volunteers make Old Lock 65 in Clyde eye-appealing to travelers passing by Old Route 31. The sunshine made the day more enjoyable, and those that participated felt the great spring air. The

volunteers had great team spirit and the people that drove by us kept the beeps coming.

Our greatest find was a fox skull; it was missing only one tooth.

Parks and Trails New York is the state's leading non-profit advocate for enhancing the health and quality of life of New Yorkers through maintenance, enhancement and promotion of New York's network of parks and multi-use trails. For more information regarding events, recreational and vacation opportunities along the Canal System, please visit www.nyscanals.gov.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

If you have not yet renewed your Trail Works membership for 2018, please take a moment to return your membership dues (Individual-\$15.00, Family-\$25.00, and Corporate- \$30.00).

Trail Works is a nonprofit organization dedicated to being a unified voice for Wayne County trail users and to coordinate the development and maintenance of high-quality, year-round, multi-use trails. Your dues help us to embody public education about trails and increase public awareness of trail issues. We strive to preserve Wayne County heritage and green spaces for the enjoyment and recreation of our future generations. Please renew your membership today.

MEMBERSHIP TEAM

GREENHOUSE EFFECT



I would like to especially thank Laura Bailey from ERP Environmental Fund, Inc. for a heated greenhouse, Baker Creek Rare Seeds for the donation of seeds and Raker's out of Michigan for the donation of over 4,000 plant plugs. We had over ten volunteers show up on a Friday afternoon in late April, to help transplant over 2,500 plugs.

MARK DECRACKER

Pictured are Gil & Holly Burgess.

June 3rd Bike & Hike Event

SUBMITTED BY CAROL MAY

As 2 p.m. neared and the skies darkened, we wondered if anyone would show up for the National Trails Event on Sunday, June 3. However, donned in rain gear and smiles, 14 riders took off from Casey Park Ontario. The ride featured stops at the Maguire Wildlife Preserve and the Cornwall Preserve, both Conservation properties managed by the Genesee Land Trust, co-sponsors of the day's event. The original plan was to hike and explore these trails, but the threatening weather made our decision to keep riding. Finishing up back at Casey Park in a downpour, riders were anxious to call it a day, but all echoed satisfaction at having braved the storm to enjoy the gems that Wayne County has to offer. Our thanks to Jim May, and Dave and Cindy Aman who provided van/sag support for the ride, and to Kevin Farrell from the Land Trust who provided commentary along the way and "sweep" for the ride.

Trail Works events can be found online at www.trailworks.org/events.





Hit the Trail

To kick off the app Wegmans reached out to Ashley Doerzbacher from Fox Rochester/13WHAM morning show. They chose Huckleberry Swamp to do the live interviews. Starting at 6:00 in the morning every half an hour we were live. Viewers from all over the Rochester market learned about Huckleberry Swamp, how to use the app, how to do a rubbing. At 8:05 we were live at the Trail of Hope, interviewing one of the newest members Rachael Wizeman on the Yellow Brick Road. Thanks Wegmans, and Ashley for promoting the trails of Wayne County.

Forgot your passport book or there is no crayon or pencil at the passport marker? No problem, we now have the "Hit the Trail" app. The app, sponsored by Wegmans and developed by local Rochester company OnCell, will provide hikers with an unlimited resource of information about each trail and it's amenities. The contact with OnCell was made during the 2016 Global

Mural Conference; they were one of our presenters. They also sponsored an app for Mural Mania.

Last fall, while working on the passport book, I reached out to OnCell about changing the app to Hit the Trail. They gave us the platform to do a pilot program. I reached out to the Lyons Leadership Class to lay out

the Historical Walking tour of Lyons, and to Cheryl Longyear out of Montezuma, where we have one of our new trails, the Richmond Aqueduct. I knew Cheryl would take the bull by the horns and make this happen. I wasn't disappointed—within weeks she had laid out six trails under the pilot program.

They say timing is everything, and the fact that I was working on the passport book at the same time worked like a charm. By mid-December all thirty trails were up without the bells or whistles that can come with a professional developer.

Fast forward to March, OnCell made a presentation to Wegmans. Wegmans was so impressed that they committed to bringing this to fruition. We had a follow up meeting three weeks before National Trails Day on June 2nd. It was determined to go live for National Trails Day. With the help of Cheryl, Angela Hoven, and myself working with Allison Mincher at OnCell, we made this happen.

This was a soft launch; there will be many more features to come. You will be able to learn about history, murals, flora, birds, and animals along the trail. Within the app you will be even able to see what Poison Ivy looks like, or learn the trees along a trail.

One of the most important features is a badge you will get when you have arrived at the passport. This not only proves the hiker reached the destination, but it provides key analytics on how many people are hiking the trail. This information is not only helpful for Wegmans, but very useful if Trail Works is applying for future grants.

All you need to do is go to the app store and search "Hit the Trail" and download the app—it's free. We have already had over 300 that have downloaded the app.

Keep checking back for new features throughout the summer.

MARK DECRACKER



Ashley "hit the trail" with Allison Mincher of OnCell (above), on the Yellow Brick Road at the Trail of Hope (left), and below with the Lyons Leadership Class at the Ribbon of Hope on the Trail of Hope.



TrailWORKS!

Our Trails Committee has been hard at work figuring out how to keep our thirty trails looking beautiful and ready for exploring. On a Saturday (generally the first Saturday of each month), from 9:00 a.m.—Noon, you are invited to join us at that month's "trail-in-need" for clearing, putting up signage, and any other sprucing-up the trail might need. We'll share each month's trail through Facebook, email, and newsletter when they've been chosen.

So far, both the Whistlewood Trail in Huron, and the Bicentennial Trail in Pultneyville have been "spruced up." Special thank you to the volunteers that came out for those! Our next work day is Saturday, July 28th, at the Lockville Trail in Newark. Meet behind SuperCuts & Nichols Financial, and be looking for "branch manager" Gary Abbott.

Please email trailworks@trailworks.org if you would like to lead one of these work days, if you notice a trail needs some extra love, or if you have any questions.



ADK Expo at Mendon Ponds

On Saturday, June 9, Trail Works members were busy sharing information about the beautiful trails highlighted in the Passport book at the ADK Outdoor Expo organized by the Adirondack Mountain Club held in Mendon Ponds. This is an annual event highlighting various outdoor activities. The annual ADK Expo attracts hundreds of people who attend more than 20 workshops on various aspects of outdoor activities. Members of Trail Works passed out the new passport books and shared information about the new app for smartphones. Overall, this was a highly successful event for Trail Works.



LEAVING A TRAIL OF HOPE

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL WIZEMAN

“WHEN YOU LEAVE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE, YOU CARRY IT WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.”

ALEXANDRA STODDARD

On May 30th our Newark Public Library walking club, the “Trail Blazers”, met at the Trail of Hope to get a guided tour from Mr. De Cracker himself. Many of us had never been to the trail before, but in the weeks prior to our visit, we’d heard stories that persuaded us to make it our first Trail Blazer field trip!

We were not disappointed! The Trail of Hope is a truly magical place, made for the sole purpose of bringing hope and joy to all who visit! While I cannot speak for the others in our group, I fell in love with it! I mean...there’s a pizza garden! And a sundial with “thyme” growing inside! Everywhere you look there is whimsy and all nature of, well, nature, living harmoniously together and creating beauty.



And interspersed throughout are messages and reminders of HOPE. Many people have left their mark on the trail and, to me, that makes it all the more special.

The trail worked its magic on me too and I’ve been back several times since our first visit to do a little work on the gardens; pick up trash, plant some of the more than 5,000 plants that need to find a home in the earth along the trail, and dream.

I brought my daughter Grace and her friend, Kayleena, along on one such visit. As I worked I heard their laughter and exclamations of joy as they explored the trail and discovered magical places along the way. When they returned, it was to ask, “when can we come back?”



Congratulations to **Sean Drum** on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout! Sean’s Eagle Scout project was a bird blind at the Trail of Hope, which he completed in 2016. President Mark DeCracker was also pinned at the ceremony as Sean’s mentor. Thank you for all of your hard work and your support of Trail Works, Sean!



Trail Spotlight: Camp Beechwood



What once was a former girl scout camp called Camp Beechwood, this undeveloped 150 acres of land became Beechwood State Park in 1999. The park is located on the shores of Lake Ontario and has 3500 feet of shoreline and bluffs to explore as well as the old camp. There is no entry fee to enjoy this state park; it is currently being maintained by the Town of Sodus.

Location: 2 miles west of Sodus Point on Lake Rd.

Hiking Distance: .3.1 miles of trails; 1 mile to passport marker

Difficulty: medium, only due to the erosion, different paths, and the hilly parts on the Overlook Trail and down to the lake. Can be a nice, easy walk if you want it to be.

Passport Marker: in the northernmost section with the cabins

Features: The trails feature an old-growth hardwood forest, White Pine and Larch Pine plantation, a meadow, and a young growth hardwood forest. There are many beautiful views of Lake Ontario and Maxwell Bay. Bald Eagles, Red-Tailed Hawks, and numerous species of song birds and water fowl are common sights in the park. Check in with caretaker for Carry-in/Carry-out camping.

Poison Ivy and Jewelweed, a Native American Tale

Many people know what poison ivy looks like and some have, unfortunately fallen prey to its effects. While enjoying a day at Ganondagan State Historic Site, I was enthralled with the Native American story of Poison Ivy and Jewelweed. As I recall, it goes like this:

Long ago, there were two sisters. One was evil and the other was kind. The evil sister wanted to frustrate mankind and so she sent poison ivy into the world. The kind sister saw the torment this would create and she decided to send jewelweed. This plant is the natural antidote to the torment of poison ivy and if you notice, in the woods they often grow near each other.

I loved this story, but does it work? If you have access to jewelweed, and you know you have just brushed up against poison ivy, crush the leaves and apply them to the skin right away to lessen the impact of the poison ivy. To have jewelweed on hand for the next poison ivy encounter, make a jewelweed infusion by boiling fresh jewelweed in water. Freeze these preparations in an ice cube tray, label and store in a freezer bag.



Poison Ivy



Jewelweed

FROM SEEDS TO BLOSSOMS

BY MARK DECRACKER

Donations for non-profits come in all forms. The Trail of Hope is one of the trails that benefits from these donations. The Trail of Hope is more than a trail—it is full of gardens of inspiration and hope that are accessible for all (it's a Forever Wild for Everyone trail). There are three wheelchair accessible gardens that wheelchairs can plant, weed and harvest from. The Trail of Hope has over 10,000 plants planted ever year. How is this possible? It is possible through donations, grants, and the wonderful volunteers that help plant seeds, transplant

their hard work that the hundreds of wheelchairs, babies in strollers and hikers will enjoy what I am proud to say is the best garden in Wayne County.

Who else benefits? The birds, the bees, and butterflies who have found a home at the Trail of Hope. Last week while planting vegetables in the Garden of Love with children between the ages of four and seven, a six-year-old turned to me and said, "If you work as a team, you realize your dreams." These same children ran over to

WHEN IT WAS TIME TO PLANT THESE THOUSANDS OF PLANTS THESE SAME VOLUNTEERS SHOWED UP. IT IS BECAUSE OF ALL THEIR HARD WORK THAT THE HUNDREDS OF WHEELCHAIRS, BABIES IN STROLLERS AND HIKERS WILL ENJOY WHAT I AM PROUD TO SAY IS THE BEST GARDEN IN WAYNE COUNTY.

plants and finally help plant and weed all these wonderful flowers and vegetables.

I would like to especially thank Laura Bailey from ERP Environmental Fund, Inc. for a heated greenhouse, Baker Creek Rare Seeds for the donation of seeds and Raker's out of Michigan for the donation of over 4,000 plant plugs (plant plugs are plants that have already been planted and are ready to be transplanted into larger containers until they are ready to plant outside). How did we transplant 4,000 plugs? We had over ten volunteers show up on a Friday afternoon in late April. I can't say enough how important these volunteers are.

When it was time to plant these thousands of plants these same volunteers showed up. It is because of all

me today (June 14th) and said "can we help you plant?" We went on to plant corn, sunflowers, pumpkins, and potatoes. When I was leaving, a young girl turned to me and said "thanks for letting us plant today." Yes, donations or help come in all forms and ages.

If you would like to make a donation to the Trail of Hope, please make your check out to Trail Works, Inc., and include "Trail of Hope" in your memo line.

Notable donations for the Trail of Hope in 2018 are Brian Ohst and Carol Chancey from Long Island for a \$400 donation.

I would like to thank Racheal Wizemen of the Newark Library Club for adopting the Yellow Brick Road.

Newsletter Submissions & Mailings

Please note that the deadline for submissions for the Fall 2018 "TWI-Lights" newsletter is September 15th. Please be sure to send all submissions to Bethany at bella.comella@gmail.com.

We send digital copies of the newsletter, unless a hard copy is requested. If you would like to continue to receive a hard copy, please email Bethany at the above email address. As we are reviewing / updating our membership lists, we want to make sure that all Trail Works members are receiving the quarterly newsletter

(either print or digital) and also email updates regarding upcoming events & activities.

If you are not receiving these, please let us know! The contact form on our website is a good way to do this (<http://trailworks.org/contact/>), or a phone call or text to Seth at (315) 707-7347 works too.

SETH C. BURGESS, *Membership Committee*
BETHANY COMELLA, *Newsletter Editor*

TRAIL WORKS, INC.
PO BOX 43
WILLIAMSON, NY 14589

trail works calendar

JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER 2018

JULY 17	Orienteering Workshop Alasa Farms, Sodus, 6:00 p.m.	AUGUST 28	Trails Committee Craft 120, Newark, Noon
JULY 17	Monthly Meeting Alasa Farms, Sodus, 7:00 p.m.	AUGUST 28	Tuesdays on the Towpath Lock Berlin to Clyde
JULY 21	Homecoming Hike Cornwall Preserve, 10:30 a.m.	TBD	Overnight Camp Beechwood or Blue Cut
JULY 24	Trails Committee Craft 120, Newark, Noon	SEPTEMBER 1	TrailWORKS Day Turtle Pond, 9:00 a.m.
JULY 27	Sunset & Full Moon Walk Butterfly Trail, 8:00 p.m.	SEPTEMBER 15	Birding Hike Cornwall Preserve, 10:00 a.m.
JULY 28	TrailWORKS Day Lockville Trail, 9:00 a.m.	SEPTEMBER 18	Monthly Meeting Park Presbyterian, 7:00 p.m.
AUGUST 4	TrailWORKS Day Palmyra Wetlands, 9:00 a.m.	SEPTEMBER 25	Trails Committee Craft 120, Newark, Noon
AUGUST 21	Monthly Meeting TBD, 7:00 p.m. hike, dinner, & campfire	SEPTEMBER 29	Fall Fairy Event Huckleberry Swamp, 10:00 a.m.