

TWI-LIGHTS

VOLUME 2 | WINTER 2019

Happy New Year
WE GREET 2019 WITH AN
ANNUAL MEETING, NEW
BOARD MEMBERS, AND
AN INVITATION TO RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Adventures Along the Trails

NANCY SNYDER SHARES HER
EXPERIENCE TACKLING THE
“DIRTY THIRTY”

Beyond
Wayne County
BOARD MEMBER CAROL
MAY CONQUERS ALL 46
ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS



Beyond the Trails of Wayne County...

TRAIL WORKS BOARD MEMBER CAROL MAY COMPLETES THE "ADIRONDACK 46"

In 2012, after Open Heart Surgery to replace the aortic valve, Carol & some other friends and Trail Works members (Betty Brayer, Charlotte Buehler & Georgia Stevens) started on a quest to climb the 46 peaks in the Adirondacks that are over 4000 feet. The women formed a group and called themselves the Wondering Wanderers. They trained together regularly, they hiked, they snow-shoed, they developed a philosophy that focused on the journey, not the destination. In February of 2013, they made the ascent of Phelps Mountain, and the journey continued. This August, Charlotte and Carol completed "the 46" on Skylight Mountain.

As the journey progressed, the different hiking abilities, schedules, set-backs taught the women a lot. A friend recently shared that she pictured us walking a path through the woods. Occasionally, she was correct, but that respite, usually brief was followed by uh-oh, how do we get past this one? The ADK hiking experience is as much a mental exercise as a physical one.

Lots of thinking, planning, scooching, stretching and some "whining". Each climb has its special set of memories and lessons:

Night time on the trail- Amazed at the beauty of Elk Lake glimmering in the distance, the alpenglow as the sun set and the rising moon. Hiking thru the "green tunnel" we could see pin pricks of light from the myriad stars

No view, no worries There's God's Gardens with wild-flower patches to delight in, and in winter - Fresh snow clings to every branch and pine needle creating a forest of fine lace. Brushing against any tree sends a flurry of snow filling our hoods and cooling our necks.

The MATH of ADK hiking - At home, I hike 3+ miles in 48 minutes. On trail, with a pack, I can do 3.5 miles in 2 hours. Add elevation, and the same 3+ miles takes about 4 hours

Trail Works Represented at Huron Day—Into the Woods!

Trail Works, Inc., recently participated in “Huron Day! Into the Woods,” on Saturday, October 6, 2018. Although the day started out cool and rainy, the sun came out later that morning and brought with it many, many people to enjoy this unique and special day.

Hosted by Historic Huron, NY, “Huron Day!” was a celebration of local agriculture, organizations, businesses, arts and crafts, and history honoring this year’s theme “Into the Woods!” Organized by Town of Huron historian Rosa Fox, the Town’s three historic buildings on North Huron Road focused on activities concentrated on local woodlands, lumbering and forestry.

Trail Works, Inc., hosted a table answering questions about the 30 hiking trails located within Wayne County, and handing out the familiar Wegmans “Hit the Trail”

Passport books. New Trail Works member and Huron resident Nancy Snyder attended, with contributions from current members Gil Burgess and Stan Weller. Nancy reported handing out over 30 Passport books as well as promoting the new Wegmans “Hit the Trail” smartphone App, which was released in celebration of National Trails Day, June 2, 2018. Attendees who stopped by to chat were excited to get their new Passport books and start making plans to hike our 30 trails!

As we approach the winter season, whether it’s walking, hiking, snowshoeing or cross country skiing, we hope to see you going “into the woods” as you “hit the trail” to ensure a healthier, better life!

NANCY SNYDER

NATURE IS THERAPEUTIC

It’s often said that Black Friday is America’s craziest contact sport. But the real ‘contact’ people should be making is with nature. We tend to forget the importance of opening our eyes to the complimentary benefits nature has to offer. In other words, it’s free! Now that’s a deal! Nature is a therapeutic way to destress from our day-to-day lives. A way to step away from the materialistic world we know so well.



People do not spend enough time outside, which leads to sadness and unhealthy bodies. Domestication and the desire to be indoors is so catering to humans, a large portion of exercise is done inside in fitness centers and gyms. Using the resource of the outdoors is beneficial to your health because it is an easy free way to stay fit and feel good. The indoors is great, but sometimes looking out the window gives you a sense of calming or desire to be outside.

Nature has benefitted me in my experiences while kayaking or hiking mountains, that I am having fun and feeling at peace. Doing things by myself is a way to get some quiet time, but it is also very enjoyable to go hiking with a group of people.

I suggest you go on a walk, breath in the crisp, cool air, and look at the environment around you. Even just taking in some fresh air can clear your mind and energize your soul.

HANNAH DECRACKER

Annual Black Friday Hike

They say that Black Friday is America's contact sport, not football, basketball or soccer. While shoppers were crashing into each other members of Trail Works and other hikers contacted with nature. How can you improve on nature? You don't need a 4K TV, sound system or Wi-Fi, it's all there for free, no lines, no grumpy cashiers, and nobody pushing you from behind.

The seven of us braved the cold at Blue Cut Nature Center on Black Friday. It was around 10 degrees when we started it later warmed up to a balmy 20. In fact, there was enough snow to ski the level areas if you wanted. We walked through about four inches of snow that was covered with the new fallen leaves along the green trail. Our



favorite spot we hiked through was the tunnel tower of Norway Spruce. This area is level and would make for a wonderful Forever Wild for Everyone trail.

We hiked to the passport marker first and then pulled the winner of the \$250 Wegmans gift card (*editor: Mark was the winner of the gift card!*). We hiked up a steep hill to the top drumlin where we walked along a level trail for about a quarter of a mile. We now were on the red trail and follow this along the base to the intersection of the green trail. In all we hiked a mile and a half perhaps enough to burn off that extra piece of pumpkin pie, but it was all worth it.

MARK DECRACKER

Election of Officers

Changes to the Trail Works bylaws approved at our March 27 meeting have now set the calendar year as January 1-December 31. While this applies to dues, it also applies to board members and officer positions. As such, those whose terms would have ended in March 2019, now end December 31 of this year. Below you will find open positions and those nominated to fill those positions. All currently active Trail Works members are eligible to vote. Please return your completed ballot to P.O. Box 43, Williamson NY 14589 by January 15, 2019.

PRESIDENT

- ☐ Mark DeCracker (1st term ending)

VICE-PRESIDENT

- ☐ Bethany Comella (2nd term as treasurer ending)

TREASURER

- ☐ Angela Hoven (currently member-at-large)

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

- ☐ Marie Cramer (1st term ending)

RECORDING SECRETARY

- ☐ Barb DeRoo (1st term ending)

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

- ☐ Gil Burgess (1st term ending)
- ☐ Nancy Snyder
- ☐ Gary Abbott
- ☐ James Zeger

A special thank-you to outgoing board members Carol May and Seth Burgess for their decades of combined service to Trail Works.

WHERE HISTORY MEETS NATURE

BY MARK DECRACKER

On Saturday, August 28th members of Trail Works were led on a wonderful kayak experience from Mays Point Lock 25 to the Richmond Aqueduct by Gary Abbot. I must say it was a bit frustrating to find the launch site. The turn off road is the former towpath for the Enlarged Erie Canal off of Rt. 89. The road was full of potholes, after about a quarter of a mile you had to turn down to a parking area. The entrance in and parking area could be cleaned up and made more accessible with some TLC. The launch site was easily to get in and out of.

THE RICHMOND AQUEDUCT WAS A BRIDGE OF WATER ON THE ERIE CANAL FOR THE CANAL BOATS TO GO OVER THE SENECA RIVER. IMAGINE IT'S 110 YEARS AGO AND YOU COME ACROSS THIS SAME VIEW TO SEE MULES AND A BOAT BEING PULLED ABOVE YOU. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A SIGHT TO BE SEEN.

Once on the water we headed down the Erie Canal toward the Seneca River and the Richmond Aqueduct. It was a warm and beautiful blue-sky day the first thing we saw was an Egret resting on a branch, not only was there an Egret we saw Osprey, Blue Heron, Kingfisher, and Eagles. This section of the Erie Canal felt like I was paddling in a wilderness area of the Adirondacks, all that was lacking were a few Spruce and White Pine popping up over the top of the Red Maples on the banks of the canal.

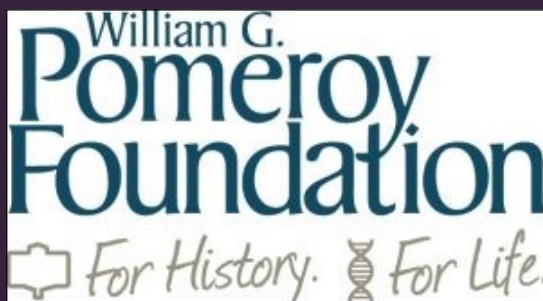
After 2.5 miles on the Erie Canal we joined the Seneca River which was flowing out of Cayuga Lake heading north. No sooner had we started paddling down the Seneca River and one of the Eight wonders of the world was right in front of us the Richmond Aqueduct. The Richmond Aqueduct was a bridge of water on the Erie Canal for the canal boats to go over the Seneca River. Imagine it's 110 years ago and you come across this

same view to see mules and a boat being pulled above you. It would certainly be a sight to be seen.

We were only able to view a small portion of the arches, most of them were removed for the Seneca River to be part of the Barge Canal. In a few minutes we were kayaking under the arches it was an awesome sight to see this amazing architecture from over 150 years ago. To see how the keystone held tons of limestones stones together.

After spending a few minutes inside of the trunk of the aqueduct we paddled north to find Cheryl Longyear from Montezuma greeting us with fresh coffee and donuts. This site was a perfect what I call a "Point of Interest" site. A place to get out of your kayak or canoe and see history. She took the time to share her collection of historic photos with us about the Richmond Aqueduct.

We then walked up to the Richmond Aqueduct passport marker, which was on top of the Aqueduct. We return the same way we came paddling into a slight breeze on a warm and windy day. This is a perfect outing; the distance is not too difficult, and you will be rewarded with wonderful beauty and history. I would recommend that signage off of Rt. 89 be installed and improvements to the access launch site. Also, signage is needed at the Richmond Aqueduct and a sign directing one in to the place to pull their kayak or canoe into.



Trail Works recently received a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for a historic marker. It is for the "Former Rail bed" sign to be placed at the southern trail head of the Sodus-Wallington Rail Trail. Special thank-you to Glenn Wallis for all of his work in obtaining this sign, sharing the trail's history with the community.



ADVENTURES ALONG THE TRAIL: MY JOURNEY TO FINISH ALL THIRTY TRAILS

BY NANCY SNYDER

I honestly never intended to do all 30 trails.

I had been walking and hiking again since late last August. I wanted to do something for myself after taking care of my elderly Dad for seven years, selling the family home, and closing his Estate. I needed to be more active, get back into shape, and maybe even lose a few pounds. I had always been an active person, even jogging back in the day. Now being retired with arthritic knees, it's pretty much walking, flat hiking and some biking on good days. Beyond walks in the neighborhood, an outlying, gated nature center with nine miles of trails had been my main focus. It was safe, it was autumn, and the colors were wonderful.

I love to be alone with my thoughts in the woods.

Fast forward to this spring. My husband brought home the new Wegmans passport book for Wayne County. As I paged through the book, I recognized a few trails in my area, only one of which I had been to before

(Huckleberry Swamp). I marked up a few pages and set it aside. Then in June, I saw an acquaintance. We got to talking about hiking and she said, "You should join Trail Works." "Hmmm," I thought. "What is that?" So I found the Trail Works website (very nice), and as I looked through all the trail listings and various other links, I saw it.

It was there...at the top of the page...in small print:

"The Dirty Thirty Challenge"

Well, I thought, the gauntlet had been thrown down! I got to work on a strategy to cover the 30 trails. I really didn't care if I was the first one done. I just wanted to *finish them all!* I started out by reading both the website description of each trail and the corresponding page of the passport book, noting the length and location of each trail. I used highlighters to color code the trails by distance, and started to group them together by geographic locations. If I was going to drive to the far end

of the county, I'd certainly do more than one trail while I was there. So starting in June, 2018, I methodically planned out my daily routes and trails. As I finished each trail, I made notes to myself on each page of the passport book.

My most memorable trail was the Lauraville Landing. As I started out, I saw a deer up ahead, but it disappeared quickly. I finally hit the bridge at the end of the trail, and turned to head back...already tired and hot. About a third of the way back with my knees hurting, my mind was telling me I should really stop and rest. But I pressed on. And then out of the bushes to the right, came a tiny fawn! It didn't see me right away while it crossed the trail in front of me. I stopped to enjoy. Then, a second fawn came across the trail following the first! They were so small and beautiful! When they finally noticed me, much to my surprise, they started moving towards me! They came right up to me and were actually "bleating" like little lambs! I had my phone out and started snapping pictures and even got a short video. My hands were shaking...I was trying so hard not to scare them away. I will never forget that hot, hot day, and the gift I encountered along that trail!

Another trail where I saw wildlife was the Kraai Preserve. Once I located the entrance to the trail and was inside the woods, I enjoyed the hike. On my way back, I heard some rustling. So I stopped and looked up, only to find three baby raccoons climbing up a tree! Again, I dug my phone out and tried to get a decent shot. It was rather dark in the woods; I had my sunglasses on, and didn't want to scare them higher up the tree! Another gift of nature.

The most difficult trail I encountered was the Sanctuary at Crowfield, only because the passport marker was at the top of a very steep hill, and my misreading the small

map in the trail book. Because I completely missed the lean-to, I scaled that hill *three times* until I found the passport marker. I had been way too far to the right in the woods to begin with. All that combined with it being a very hot day (July 4th), and my being dressed in socks, jeans and a long sleeved shirt to ward off ticks in the woods. My knees will never forgive me!

Some thoughts and observations: I've lived in Wayne County for some 35 years, and never knew some of these trails even existed. There are a couple of trails right in my own back yard (literally). I wasn't aware of the phone App when I started out, and used the passport book exclusively. Once I started, I went out almost every day for about three weeks until I was done. You can do that when you are retired! The most trails I ever did in one day were five (relatively short ones). And I have to admit...I did not do every mile of every trail, but did a good representation of each given the heat and my arthritic knees! For instance, at Alasa Farms, I did the trail to the campground where the passport marker was. Since I live close to the farm, I will return again to finish the other trails.

I really enjoyed hiking all 30 trails, but especially the ones with the wildlife I encountered, the ones with portions of the Erie Canal, and the ones with the murals. The Richmond Aqueduct was a favorite...such history! And other than a flat bicycle tire on the way back on the Westshore Trail, my experiences were all good! As fall comes once again, I plan to return to many of these trails to enjoy them in cool comfort with the beautiful colors! As a new member, I want to thank Trail Works for their great work in promoting the trails of Wayne County.

Happy Trails!

Newsletter Submissions & Mailings

Please note that the deadline for submissions for the Spring 2019 "TWI-Lights" newsletter is March 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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LOCKVILLE?

BY BETHANY COMELLA

While even many Newark residents haven't ever heard of "Lockville," the east end of Newark is home to an underdeveloped gem of a trail. There have been some changes at the Lockville Trail over the past 18 months, and this is an attempt to shed some light on those.



In July 2017, it was discovered that the west end of Lock 58 was dug up, and also discovered that several stones demarcating the "blue line" between state property and private property also were missing. At this point, Trail Works member Roger Straub and President Mark DeCracker began emailing with the NYS Canal Corporation, and the Canal Corp. began looking into the matter. There were a few more emails between Roger, Mark DeCracker, and the Canal Corp, but things largely went quiet towards the end of 2017 and into 2018.



In May of 2018, Spectrum News aired a piece regarding a new "art installation" at the Thomas Creek Wetlands in Fairport. The art, a sundial, had been constructed with old lock stones "from a scrap metal yard in Newark." We had our missing stones! (The state police ultimately decided not to press charges, as they believe all parties acted in good faith). There was a flurry of chatter amongst the board, and the Trails Committee took this issue on at the end of May.

I had the opportunity to speak with the Canal Corporation, and was promised a survey of the property to verify that the stones had indeed been taken from state property. That was at the end of June. Eventually, John Callaghan and George Newberry, both from the Canal Corp, met Mark and me down at the trail the Friday of Labor Day weekend. They saw our concerns, and I spoke with George about what our short- and long-term goals were for the trail. Happily, George obliged a week later by leveling E-Lock 58, filling the "crime scene" (as we came to call it), and laying stone dust. We are still waiting for a survey to be conducted of the property.



We have had two successful work days in Lockville, which have resulted in a renewed interest in the Lockville site. Age and physical limitations have made it difficult for those who were involved in the initial clean-up of Lockville around 10 years ago, so we are looking to a new generation of "Locktenders" to help maintain this hidden gem here in Newark. I'm not sure what the future holds for the Lockville Trail, but it is promising, and we welcome your suggestions and participation!



TRAIL WORKS 2019 MEMBERSHIP

Dear Trail Works Members and Friends:

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.

If you have not yet renewed your Trail Works membership for the 2018-2019 year, your membership in Trail Works expired effective December 31, 2018. Thank you for your previous support for Trail Works mission. If you are a first-time member, thank you for joining us! If you've been a member in the past, we hope we can continue to count on your support for the coming year (01/2019-12/2019).

Please take a moment to return your membership dues (Individual-\$15.00, Family-\$25.00, and Corporate-\$50.00), along with the renewal form.

Your dues help us to embody public education about trails and increase public awareness of trail issues. We recognize the importance of the relationship Trail Works has established with local and county governments. These relationships are vital to moving ahead on any plans for trail developments. So, we are all about trails—planning trails, cutting trails, maintaining trails, posting signage and enjoying trails.

We strive to preserve Wayne County heritage and green spaces for the enjoyment and recreation of our future generations.

Please renew your membership today. Thank you.

The Trail Works Board & Membership Committee

Trail Works, Inc. 2019 Membership Form

Please check the type of membership:

- ☐ single (\$15)
- ☐ corporate (\$50)
- ☐ family (# of family members: _____) (\$25)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please make all checks payable to:

Trail Works, Inc.
ATTN: Membership
PO Box 43
Williamson, NY 14589

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

trail works calendar

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, & MARCH 2019

JANUARY 1	First Day Hike Montezuma Audubon, 10:00 a.m.
JANUARY 1	First Day Hike Casey Park, 1:00 p.m.
JANUARY 1	First Day Hike Black Brook, 1:00 p.m.
JANUARY 15	Annual & Monthly Meetings Park Presbyterian, 7:00 p.m.
JANUARY 19	Moonlight XC Ski Night Crowfield Sanctuary, 8:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 10	Winter Hike, XC, Snowshoe May Farm, 2:00-4:00 p.m. 7304 Stoney Lonesome Rd. Williamson
FEBRUARY 12	Monthly Meeting TBD, 7:00 p.m.
MARCH 12	Trails Committee Craft120, Newark, Noon
MARCH 19	Monthly Meeting Park Presbyterian, 7:00 p.m.