

TWI-LIGHTS

VOLUME 4 | WINTER 2021

Closing The Gaps

THIRTY YEARS IN THE
MAKING, WAYNE COUNTY
IS LINKED WITH NY STATE

First Day Hike

TRAIL WORKS AND FRIENDS
STARTED THE YEAR ON THE
“RIGHT FOOT” WITH OUR ANNUAL
“FIRST DAY HIKE”

Contest Winners

MEMBERSHIP, PHOTOS,
AND UGLY SWEATERS—
ANNOUNCING WINNERS!



“Hitting the Trails”

at the Richmond Aqueduct Trail

What a beautiful day it was for all the participants to enjoy an autumn hike at the Richmond Aqueduct Trail on October 17th. Mike Riley led the hike by telling the story of the 200-year evolution of the Erie Canal system through the historic resources that remain in this area.

The Richmond Aqueduct Trail is part of the 30 trail system of the Wayne County Hit the Trails sponsored by Wegmans. This trail does **not** allow hunting, located at Chapman Rd. off Rte 31/High Street, Montezuma, NY 13117 One can get a passport book or download the app “Hit the Trails” on your smartphone to earn trail, mural or history badges.

The Montezuma Heritage Park consists of over 165 acres of parkland acquired by the Town of Montezuma in the 1960's to be preserved and protected. It holds many significant natural and historic resource sites along the Seneca River/Erie Canal that tell the story of New York State's Canal System from 1820 to today. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the 70-acre Seneca River Crossing Canals Historic District on the Seneca River in the towns of Montezuma and Tyre, it illustrates nearly 200 years of canal engineering. The Park is being developed and maintained by the volunteers of the Montezuma Historical Society Friends of the Park.



The trail is one of eleven nature trails in Montezuma Heritage Park that also includes several historic canal sites including Clinton's Ditch Lock 62. The former towpath trail leads to the remains of the second largest aqueduct along the Enlarged Erie Canal. Work began on the “water bridge” in 1849 consisting of building 31 arches spanning 894-1/2 feet long built to replace the hazards of crossing directly through the Seneca River by lifting the canal over it. Van Rensselaer Richmond, American Civil Engineer and politician from Lyons, NY, designed it. It was dismantled in 1917, to make way for the new Barge Canal. Today seven arches remain on the east side of Seneca River and three on the west side.



Enjoy walking the easy 1/2 mile trail, biking, cross-country skiing, bird watching, and fishing.

Thank you for those that came out to join this great event and Thank you to SOAR Clyde Savannah Galen for always being a great partner to Trail Works, Inc.

MARIE CRAMER AND CHERYL LONGYEAR

2020 BLACK FRIDAY HIKE

A small Trail Works, Inc. group gathered for a beautiful walk through the Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve the day after Thanksgiving. On our walk we came across the Genesee Land Trust group also enjoying their nature walk through the preserve.

With the increase in Covid numbers recently, this is one place, the trails, you feel safe to enjoy the outdoors. Everyone had masks on and adhered to the social distancing rules along with sharing the trails together for all of to enjoy.

It was 48 degree weather, but not chilly. We saw different birds, mild case of invasive species, different colors with in the meadows and trees, one lonesome live yellow ragweed and a few pumpkins appearing like they were strategically placed in the creek water.

Wayne County has 30 beautiful trails for everyone to enjoy and encourages outdoor exploration on commu-

nity trails. Either use the "Hit the Trails" app for your smartphone on either search in the iTunes or Google Play Store and download for free to earn your trail & history badges. You can also get a passport book from Trail Works or the Cornell Cooperative Extension Route 88 in Newark, NY.



Enjoy our trails and start earning your badges so, you can become eligible for the next \$250 Wegmans gift card drawing on National Trails Day in June 2021, location to be determined. To keep you updated on our events or our organization feel free to visit www.trailworks.org

Thank you Wegmans and On-cell for partnering with Trail Works, Inc. for all the communities to enjoy the Wayne County 30 Trails.

MARIE CRAMER

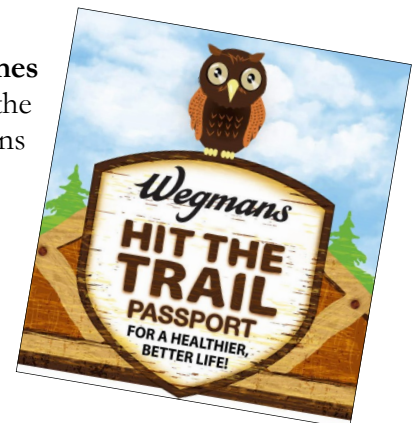
"Hit the Trail" Passport *annual winner drawn at Black Friday Hike*

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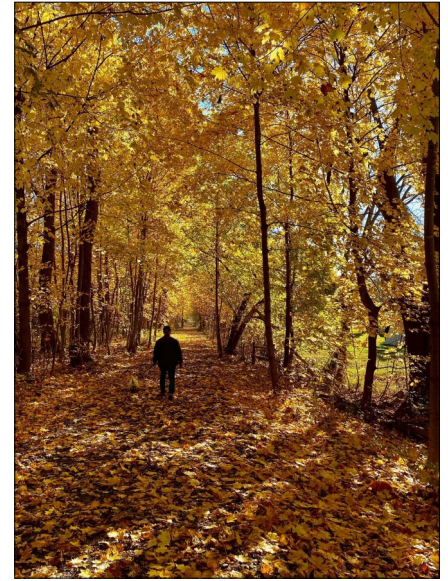
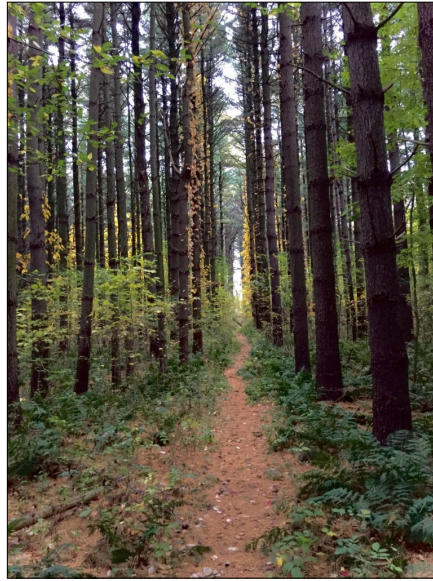
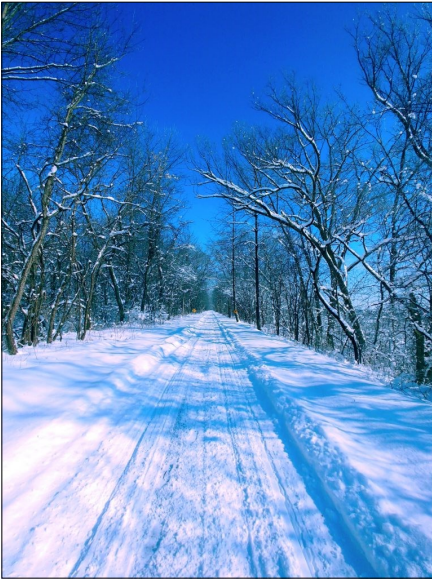
The 2020 passport drawing was done at the passport marker. **Congratulations to James Bullock for being the 2020 winner.** Thank you James for enjoying your time on the Wayne County Trails in order for you to become eligible and win the \$250 Wegmans gift card.

Thank you Wegmans and On-cell for partnering with Trail Works, Inc.

MARK DECRACKER



1st Annual Photo Contest Winners



Trail Works is delighted to announce the winners of our first Nature Photo Contest!

1st prize: "Winter Blues" by Mary Lauster, taken on the Lauraville Landing trail.; 2nd prize: "Pines" by Amy Vallone, taken at Beechwood State Park.; 3rd prize: "Solitary" by Deborah Teska, also taken on the Lauraville Landing trail.

Thank you to all who submitted photos, and head to Facebook to see all of our submissions!

BETHANY COMELLA

Gary Abbott Wins Ugly Sweater Contest

During the Trail Works, Inc. December board meeting/Christmas gathering via Zoom, the board members decided to do something fun this year.

All board members were to participate in an "Ugly Sweater or Festive Sweater" contest.



As we all had fun viewing and commenting on everyone's creativity, Gary Abbott was hands down the most creative in his Festive/Ugly Sweater.

Congratulations Gary for being the official winner. Thank you to all the rest of the board members for participating so we could have a fun board meeting.

As always, be safe and resilient! Don't forget about using the Wegmans/Trail Works, Inc. -Wayne County 30 trail system and be part of the Dirty Thirty Challenge: <https://trailworks.org/the-dirty-thirty-challenge/>

MARIE CRAMER



Starting the Year on the Right Foot

Trail Works Partners with SOAR for First Day Hike

On Friday, January 1st, Trail Works partnered with SOAR for our annual First Day Hike, kicking off the New Year in a healthy way with some exercise! SOAR (Strengthening Our Area Residents) concentrates its efforts in the towns of Clyde, Savannah and Galen.

This year's hike started at Black Brook Park on Old Route 31 in Galen. Ten hearty individuals joined us as we hiked west along the wooded canal path trail that parallels "Clinton's Ditch" and the Enlarged Erie Canal, both remnants of the old canal system. We first pointed out the Trail Works Passport marker located at the Black Brook bridge, and further on, we located where stones from Clinton's Ditch (former lock 65) were removed to. We continued west towards the Berlin Lock (Lock 54), learning about canal history along the way. We then hiked on to view a new Wayne County portion of the Erie Canalway Trail, which is part of the Empire State Trail system.

Thank you to SOAR and to those who joined us for our First Day hike. Happy New Year's Trails!



TRAIL WORKS REACHES ITS MEMBERSHIP GOAL OF 100 MEMBERS!

When Trail Works held its annual meeting in January of last year, we set a membership goal of achieving 100 members by the end of 2020. That's a lofty goal for a small organization, but your Trail Works Board thought it was possible.

The last week of December, we received our 100th member, Amy Vallone of Webster!

"How exciting! I never win anything! I've been enjoying the trails in Wayne County immensely over the years and just found out about Trail Works this year. Happy to be a member!"

Increasing membership is not only about providing a rewarding and memorable outdoor experience; it's about being visible in the community. It's about staffing events, hosting hikes and work days on trails, partnering with other organizations, collaborating, and making connections. This year proved to be a huge challenge with the COVID virus. Many of the events we normally participate in were cancelled or severely limited. And yet...we did it!

Welcome, Amy! We look forward to meeting you out on the trails soon!

NANCY SNYDER



ANNUAL & MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Trail Works Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. Mark DeCracker is now filling the VP role, and former VP Bethany Comella is now president. The board has merged the recording and corresponding secretary positions into one "Secretary" position, now filled by Nancy Snyder, and Barb DeRoo is continuing as Treasurer. Board member Daniel Eggert has stepped down, and replacing him is Rachel Wizeman. Look for a "hello" from Rachel in the next "TWI-lights." Of note, Trail Works achieved its goal of 100 members (see the article on Page 2).

Monthly Meetings for Trail Works held monthly, on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are still being held virtually, and the "Zoom" link for monthly meetings is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85855860605>. You do not need to be a member to attend board meetings. Please see <http://trailworks.org/events/> for a list of all our board meetings and events.

BETHANY COMELLA, Trail Works President



TRAIL WORKS 2021 MEMBERSHIP

Dear Trail Works Members and Friends,

If you have not yet renewed your Trail Works membership for the 2021 year, your membership has expired. Thank you for your previous support for Trail Works' mission, and we hope we can continue to count on your support for the coming year.

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

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 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.

Happy Trails,
Trail Works Membership Team

Trail Works, Inc. 2021 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



Enlarged Lock 56 Historic Marker

TRAIL WORKS SPEARHEADS THE ADDITION OF POMEROY HISTORIC SIGN ON E-56 TRAIL

Trail Works is proud to announce placement of a Pomeroy historical canal marker at the “Poorhouse Grocery” in Lyons.

This marker was a grant in a new William G. Pomeroy Foundation program commemorating the history of important transportation canals in the United States and uses a new design and color scheme.

Up until 1918 when the now operating barge canal was opened, the Enlarged Erie Canal served as the main conduit for commerce and travel to and beyond Lyons.

Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 56 is located about two miles west of Lyons at the eastern end of Trail Works’ Lock 56 trail and a short stone’s throw from the barge canal. What today is known as the “Poorhouse Grocery” is next to the lock.

Built sometime after the Enlarged Erie was opened in 1849 and before 1855, the brick structure housed a gro-

cery and chandlery as well as providing a home for the owners.

Today, Allyn Perry, who grew up and still lives there, is an enthusiastic spokesperson for its history.

Together with my wife Joan and Allyn and under the auspices of Trail Works we researched this history and

applied for and were given a grant for the historic marker that now stands in front of the building. Tim Moore, Town of Lyons Highway Superintendent, was a great help by erecting the marker.

We are planning to have a sign dedication ceremony when we can again gather without masks and social distancing.

GLENN WALLIS



Trail Works would especially like to thank Glenn and Joan Wallis for all of their work in bringing this sign to E-56. We look forward to celebrating it when safe to do so.

Closing the Gaps

A COMPLETED LINEAR TRAIL LINKS WAYNE COUNTY WITH NEW YORK STATE

The gaps are finally closed. After thirty years we finally have a trail across N.Y. State and Wayne County. Eighty percent of the trail is off the main highway, which makes this even more special. In 1988, I started a non-profit called E.R.I.E. (Erie's Restoration Interests Everyone) *. One of the bullets on our brochure was to establish of a linear trail across the New York State. E.R.I.E. spent the next three years clearing a path along the Erie Canal. This was done with the Shock Incarceration Camp out of Butler. The section from Stebbins Road to the Rt. 88 bridge in Newark is a section that was completed in the early 90's. Over the years this section has been improved and just last year this section was paved. Throughout the 90's and early 2000's I was on a committee that focused on closing the gaps. Over those years mileage was added but there still were plenty of gaps in the trail.



Closing the Gaps has been part of Trail Works' mission since I joined in 2008. In fact, the Black Brook section has always been a focus of Clean Sweep almost every year. I have many photos of us clearing all the invasive species that grew along the old towpath. One year we also cut out a large tree that had fallen on the trail. When it seemed that trail development was slowing to a crawl pace, Trail Works reached out to Canal Director Brian Stratton about assisting with putting in the section from Newark to Lyons. Brian came to Newark on a Saturday in November of 2011, and met with Arcadia Supervisor Dick Colacino and Trail Works board members Mark De Cracker and "Jolly Roger." In less than a week, Brian got back to us and said work would begin in the Spring.

Trail Works was again front and center in bringing attention to Closing the Gaps. We organized a bike ride from Macedon to Montezuma along the trail we were proposing in Wayne County. We had over 10 riders who participated on that ride that day for National Trails Day on June 3rd, 2017. Trail Works board member James Zeger even came up with a design for this bike ride. At the end of the ride we were treated to a chicken barbecue in Montezuma.

In the Summer of 2019, "Closing the Gaps" was coming to fruition. The trail across Wayne County was completed except for a small section that was disputed in the courts. This section was completed Fall 2020, and we now have a trail not only across Wayne County, but across the state of New York.

On January 1st, Trail Works led a successful hike with S.O.A.R. on this beautiful section of the enlarged Erie Canal.

MARK DECRACKER

**Trail Works member Pauline Burnes was a founding member of E.R.I.E. in 1988.*



Camp Beechwood Update

We have some good news from the park service. As many of you know, we got a tentative date of last July for them to come in and clean up the arson sites, as well as to start removing unsalvageable buildings. Aside from being short-staffed due to Covid, and Beechwood being on the back burner for so many years, they had no idea how many buildings we had anymore or where they were. Also, apparently a permit is required for each structure to be removed and also another permit to remove any hazardous material, which in our case is mostly roofing shingles. A representative came out to the park a few weeks back and we did a documented inventory together of the entire park. The Beechwood committee then e-mailed the state with a list of the buildings that we would like removed. We've heard back from our local park representative, Marcus Riehl, and the permits are being processed. There was also talk of getting it all taken care of while the ground is frozen, so the heavy equipment doesn't tear up the park. So the ball is definitely rolling now with the park service.

A list of buildings being removed from the park:

- the last two arson sites
- the pool house
- the counselor's cabin, shower, laundry, and latrine behind the pool
- the Romany building (where the new water spigot is)
- two a-frames closest to the main trail, one a-frame which is already down, pavilion with the caved in roof, and latrine in the highlands area which is the first section of a-frames
- director's cabin, which is the one set back in the field where the port-a-potty normally is
- woodshed next to the pioneer lodge and latrine on the side hill at the pioneer lodge
- everything in the eastwoods section next to Sprongs Bluff except one latrine and the pavilion.

A preliminary spot for a new parking area which will be off a new access road coming off of Lake Rd. on the west side of the park has been chosen. I'll be clearing the area as soon as the weather breaks, and the town will be putting in the road. As far as the new trails being put in, that is still up in the air as to who is going to do them and when, but they are coming.

For the last few months the town has been working on ways to accept donations directly and through the new campbeechwood.com website. At this time this cannot happen, but Trail Works will be discussing accepting donations for Beechwood at our February board meeting.

Also, if anybody has any further questions feel free to ask.. I can be reached at salvittozzi@gmail.com.

SAL VITTOZZI



A special “Welcome back!” to past Trail Works president Seth Burgess, who recently returned from a nearly year-long deployment to Jordan. Happy to have you back out on our Wayne County trails, Seth! Keep your eyes open for a potential special presentation on the “trails” of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan...



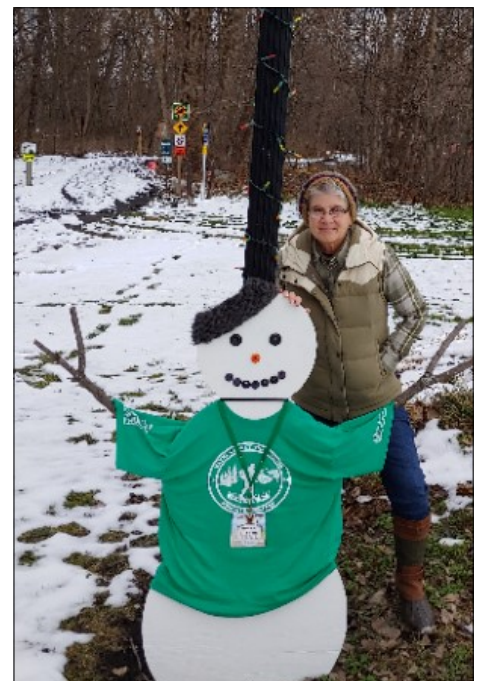
ADOPT-A-SNOWPERSON with SOAR

This winter, Trail Works participated in the SOAR community project “Adopt a Snowperson.” The snowpersons are displayed all around the Clyde/Savannah/Galen area as part of SOAR’s “Hometown Holiday Happenings.” Board Member Nancy Snyder and her family took on the task of dressing up and decorating a snow person provided by SOAR.

Look for the Trail Works “snow gal” at the trailhead at Lauraville Landing in Clyde this winter. She is wearing a green Trail Works T-shirt and a lanyard carrying our “Hit the Trail” Passport book. Trail Works will get to keep her and move her around to other trails next winter. Look for a second “snow gal” at the Black Brook Park pavilion, too!

Thank you, Amy Bullard and Jen Peeso at SOAR, for this great opportunity to participate and promote the Lauraville Landing and Black Brook Trails as part of the Trail Works 30 trail system!

NANCY SNYDER





Blue Jay by Patricia Blyler, PA, 2020 GBBC



Canada Jay by Debbie Schultz, MN, 2020 GBBC

HOW MANY BIRDS WILL YOU FIND?

Worldwide birdwatching event starts on February 12

New York, NY, Ithaca, NY, and Port Rowan, ON—Lots of people turned to birdwatching during the past year, seeking enjoyment and relaxation. Chickadees, cardinals, finches and other birds are doing their part to lift human spirits. The 24th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a great opportunity for all budding birdwatchers and bird-count veterans to use their skills. People from around the world count the birds they see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, and then enter their checklists online.

The GBBC takes place February 12 through 15.

"The GBBC is a simple, welcoming project that both new and veteran birdwatchers enjoy," says David Bonter, Co-Director of the Center for Engagement in Science and Nature at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "Birds are everywhere and can be counted in backyards, neighborhoods, suburban parks, wild areas, and cities. Scientists need the eyes of the world to collect information about where the birds are."

During the 2020 GBBC, birdwatchers set new records for the event, turning in nearly 250,000 lists of birds seen, from more than 100 countries, identifying nearly 7,000 of the world's estimated 10,000 bird species. Data gathered by the GBBC and other survey projects highlight changes in the numbers and distribution of wild birds over time.

Birds make us happy. "By participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, community scientists contribute data that we use to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow," said Chad Wilsey (@ChadBWilsey), Ph.D., chief scientist at National Audubon Society. "In return, studies tell us that pausing to observe birds, their sounds and movements, improve human health. Participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count is a win-win for birds and people."

This year there is a new way to send in an observation—through the Cornell Lab's free Merlin Bird ID app. If you use the app during the GBBC and save a bird you've identified, it is also counted for the GBBC. As in the past, using the eBird platform on your mobile app and computer are still great ways to enter your data. Visit our [How to Participate](#) page to learn more about entering your bird sightings.

11th Annual Winter Hike

Come Sweat with Your Sweetheart!



Trail Works, Inc. Sunday, February 14, Winter Hike at May's Farm: 2-4 pm at Carol & Jim May's Farm, 7304 Stoney Lonesome Rd., Williamson, NY 14589. Trail Works Inc. will be participating in the 11th Annual Winter Hike! Terrain suitable for all abilities, distance varies, socially distanced, and masks required. Dress for the weather and enjoy the outdoors! Join the fun around the fire pit! We always welcome new Trail Works members and volunteers for maintaining our trails. For information on upcoming events, visit: <http://trailworks.org/events/>. Contact: trailworks@trailworks.org or Nancy Snyder at (315) 483-6274. Hope to see you there!

NEWLY REVISED "HIT THE TRAIL" PASSPORT BOOKS

The newly revised Wegmans "Hit the Trail" Passport Books are now available. No new trails have been added, but updated trail information, icons, trail index, membership information, and a more consistent set of trail maps have been included. You can pick up a copy of the revised Passport book at the following locations:

Alasa Farms
Beechwood State Park
Butterfly Nature Trail, Macedon
Clyde/Savannah Library
Huron Town Hall
Lyons Library
Macedon Library
Montezuma Audubon Center, Savannah
Newark Library

Ontario Library
Ontario Recreation Center
Palmyra Library
Pine Creek Farm & Feed, Lyons
Richmond Aqueduct Trail
Rose Library
Savannah Town Hall
SOAR Office (Clyde)
Sodus Library
Sodus Point Town Hall
Walworth Library
Wegmans Holt Road
Wegmans Newark
Williamson Library
Wolcott Library



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



Chimney Bluffs and Whistlewood Hike

with the Black River Chapter of the ADK Mountain Club

On Saturday, March 27th, Trail Works will partner with the Black River Chapter of the ADK Mountain Club for two hikes and lunch at a local restaurant. The first hike is above the world-famous landmark Chimney Bluffs on the south shore of Lake Ontario. This is a very short trail about 1 mile in length, 2-mile RT. Chimney Bluffs has experienced some erosion, and some of the paths that were along the edge are no longer usable; therefore, you should forge a path through wooded areas.

After this adventure, we can visit a local winery or restaurant prior to moving onto the next hike through Whistlewood which is a former Girl Scout Camp that is now part of the NYS Lakeshore Marshes Wildlife Management Area and managed by the New York State DEC. From the top of the hill, views of Beaver Creek and Lake Ontario are spectacular. This is a short 1.25-mile loop trail, wrapping up the visit by midafternoon for the return to the North Country.

Download the app: Hit the Trails prior to arrival to secure proof of hike badges. Find more details at: <https://trailworks.org/>. Please contact Rich Ross with any questions, ross97@gmail.com or by phone (267) 218-0921.

RICHARD ROSS