

# TWI-LIGHTS

VOLUME 7 | WINTER/SPRING 2023

**In Search  
Of Snow**

**FINDING WINTER,  
AND MORE, IN THE  
ADIRONDACKS**

**Let's Go Down  
To Mays' Farm**

**TRAIL WORKS "SWEATS WITH  
THEIR SWEETHEART"**

**Along the  
Hojack**

**MEETING ONE OF WAYNE  
COUNTY'S BEST-KEPT  
SECRETS**



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## WHO WE ARE

### OFFICERS

Bethany Comella, *President*  
 Mark DeCracker, *Vice-President*  
 Barb DeRoo, *Treasurer*  
 Nancy Snyder, *Secretary*

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Gary Abbott, Gil Burgess, Sal Vittozzi, Glenn Wallis

*The Trail Works board of directors meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Meeting information can be found on our website at <https://trailworks.org/events/>. Our Zoom link for meetings is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85855860605>.*

## ABOUT US

Trail Works, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, was founded in Wayne County New York in 1997 by a small group of individuals who are dedicated trail users who are interested in trail development and expanding trail use.

## OUR PURPOSE

Trail Works' purpose is to provide a unified voice for Wayne County trail users as well as to coordinate the development and maintenance of high-quality, year-round multi-use trails. Our purpose also embodies public education about trails and public awareness of trail issues. To carry out our purpose, we recognize the importance of the relationships Trail Works has established with local and county governments. These relationships are vital to moving ahead on any plans for trail development. Whether we are planning trails, cutting trails, maintaining them, posting signage or using trails by hiking, riding, kayaking, snowshoeing, skiing or biking... we are all about trails.

## COVER

Trail Works Secretary Nancy Snyder "finding the snow" in the Adirondacks (*see her story on page 8*).

# From the President THE PATH FORWARD

Unfortunately, the Dolomite Trail has been removed from our thirty trails for reasons beyond our control. A special thank-you to Stan Weller for his many years of hard work in developing the trail, maintaining it, promoting it, advocating for it, and everything in-between. We're hoping to replace it with either the Macyville Trail (hike led by Maxine Appleby on May 20th) or the Hojack Trail (see the article on the next page!)

We have a number of exciting events in the works, including "Sundays around Sodus" hikes this May and June led by Tim Wilbur, and some easy strolls with

mindful meditation and yoga this summer, led by Laura Pyke. We're also hoping to run an event similar to Wayne County's Shopping Fling for National Trails Day Weekend (June 3-4), with prizes and "swag." Keep an eye on our Facebook and Website for more information, including the location of our NTD hikes, and the drawing for the Wegmans Passport program.

**Wishing you Good Health and Happy Trails,**

**BETHANY COMELLA**

*President, Trail Works, Inc.*



# ALONG THE HOJACK

The Lake Ontario Shore Railroad first came to Red Creek with a groundbreaking in 1871 and service commencing in 1872. It became part of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg in 1884 and was absorbed by the New York Central in 1904. The line, in all its incarnations, was known by locals as the “HoJack” line.

Although the origin of the name is lost to history, there are two prevailing theories that explain it. One is that an engineer on the line was named Jack and greeted people with a robust “Ho!”. The other is that a farmer with a mule drawn buckboard became stranded on the track when the vehicle’s wheels became lodged on the rails. As an approaching train was heard, the farmer became anxious and yelled “Ho, Jack!” to the animal. Legend has it that all survived the possible collision.

Today, the remnants of the HoJack in northern Wayne County provide nature lovers a glimpse of the picturesque countryside. Traveling west from Church Street in the village, the trail begins at a steep embankment left after the demolition of the trestle that once spanned the street. Visible through the trees on the south side of the tracks is the Red Creek Union Academy and Seminary. The 1860 structure is basically unchanged and commemorated with a Pomeroy historic marker.

Known as the Academy Cut, the railbed in that area is elevated to about 30 feet. Railroad ties are still present in the roughly half mile stretch that runs to Waters Road, just outside the village. A plan is underway to

remove the ties and smooth the trail, led by local contractor Joe Gregg.

The route from Red Creek to Wadsworth Street in Wolcott is lined by mature trees, sumac in some areas, and on the Red Creek end, some of the largest blackberries a hiker is likely to ever encounter. Trilliums are plentiful along the route in early spring. Both cultivated and dormant fields can be seen through the trees.

Traveling east from Red Creek, the trail winds its way to Fair Haven over a circuitous, scenic route. Within the village is the wooden bridge passing over Big Red Creek.

The trail passes through a short expanse of open field before once again joining the railbed. After passing into Cayuga County, the trail passes by what appears to be two ponds. These are the water filled remnants of the once prosperous iron ore beds that were an important factor in early economic development of the area.

Sterling Junction was the intersection of three branches of railbeds, today providing access to Martville and Cato to the south, Sterling Center and Oswego to the east, and Fair Haven to the north.

**DEBORAH BENSON**





# A Day of Giving at Books, Etc.

*On November 27th, 2022 we had our third Day of Giving. Thank you to all those that showed your support to Trail Works, Inc. Monies donated will go back to improving the trails in Wayne County.*

Three Wayne County non-profits participated, which were Trail Works, Inc, Wayne County Humane Society and Pal-Mac Rotary. Each dollar received in our jar counted as one vote. Each non-profit was given an additional \$35.00 from Books, ETC.

The Day of Giving reminded us all what a beautiful place we live in. To be surrounded by kind, loving, generous and positive people.

“The Bread Man” Chet dropped by and surprised us. This man for many years has made homemade loaves of breads and hands them over with love and kindness for free. The most random act of kindness throughout the year. He is magical like Santa Claus.

**Save the date for our next scheduled “A Day of Giving” @ Books, ETC 78 W. Main Street Macedon, NY on Saturday, November 25, 2023 from Noon-3pm. It is guaranteed to bring sunshine to your life.**

**MARIE CRAMER**



# LET'S GO... DOWN TO *Mays' Farm*



Werner and I arrived right at 2pm at Carol & Jim May's Apple Farm on Stoney Lonesome Road in Williamson. Luckily we did, as the hike started out right after. We did get a glimpse of the delectable vittles that would be waiting for us at the end of our journey and served as incentive to keep us moving.

Carol thought there would only be about 5 guests as it was supposed to be a cross country/snow shoe event, but there were 25 of us. So many of us in fact, that Carol took half the group one way and Betty took the rest in a



different direction. Yep, there was mud, and puddles, but I don't think you'd be in Trail Works if any of that bothered you. We walked through the orchards and then through the woods, by Junk Car Alley and out to the hidden pond. It was a great day to be out in the sun and fresh air.

Betty's group got back first; I think they took a short cut to snag goodies first. I have not had a marshmallow Rice Krispie thing in a long time. Excellent.

Jim told us about the original barn structure from 1846, built before the house of course as livestock comes first! My favorite story: 50 years ago, Carol & Jim were looking for a small piece of property to build on, and they arrived at this gorgeous property when all the apple blossoms were blooming in full glory. They had to have it all. Moral of story: don't property shop when the orchards are blooming, you may end up with a beautiful farm. Thank you Carol & Jim.



MARK KETCHAM





# THE PARKS, TRAILS, AND PATHS OF IRELAND

Over the years, I have had the privilege of visiting Ireland several times, most recently in December 2022. Spending much time walking and hiking through the Irish countryside on two earlier trips in January 2016 and October 2017, I have shared stories on visiting all six national parks, along with the many trails and paths I traversed both on foot and in my car.

The six national parks in Ireland are: Killarney, Wicklow Mountains, The Burren, Connemara, Ballycroy, and Glenveagh. While the parks have much in common, each has its own landscape and personality. Some feature ancient ruins, such as the 6th century monastic settlement of Glendalough in the Wicklow Mountains. Others are especially known for featuring their natural beauty, such as the harsh limestone landscape of The Burren, or the Mayo Dark Sky Park in

Ballycroy National Park. Others, such as Killarney, Connemara, and Glenveagh, were carved from estates that were donated to the Office of Public Works.

While the six parks offer plenty of opportunities for walking, hiking, kayaking, biking, and just enjoying nature, Ireland also has a very extensive developed trail system. The National Trails Office was established in 2007 by the Irish Sports Council to coordinate and drive the implementation of an Irish Trails Strategy, and to promote the use of recreational trails in Ireland. There are currently 927 recognized trails. (See more information at [irishtrails.ie](http://irishtrails.ie))

One of my favorite things in Ireland is the many paths that lead you to castles, dolmens, ring forts, and other ruins in the Irish countryside... through a farmer's field, a wooded forest, or a steep cliff, the



paths of Ireland will give you the best views of Ireland's hidden secrets. One of Ireland's newest and biggest tourism draws is the Wild Atlantic Way. —The 1,553 mile driving route passes through nine counties and three provinces, stretching from County Donegal's Inishowen Peninsula in Ulster to Kinsale, County Cork, in Munster, on the Celtic Sea coast. Along the route there are 188 discovery points, 1,000 attractions, and more than 2,500 activities.

The *Slí na Sláinte* is an initiative developed by the Irish Heart Foundation, with the aim to encourage and increase the number of people walking in the Republic of Ireland. Trained walking leaders promote and lead walks in their area and help them achieve awards when targets are met. (I'm pretty sure they modeled this program on Trail Works!)

This most recent trip, I had the opportunity to do something a little different. As I went at Christmas time, the Bunratty Folk Park lights up for the holidays. For an entrance fee, you can walk through the park and enjoy the Christmas lights and decorations. Between that and the Cliffs of Moher, I covered over 15,000 steps that day!

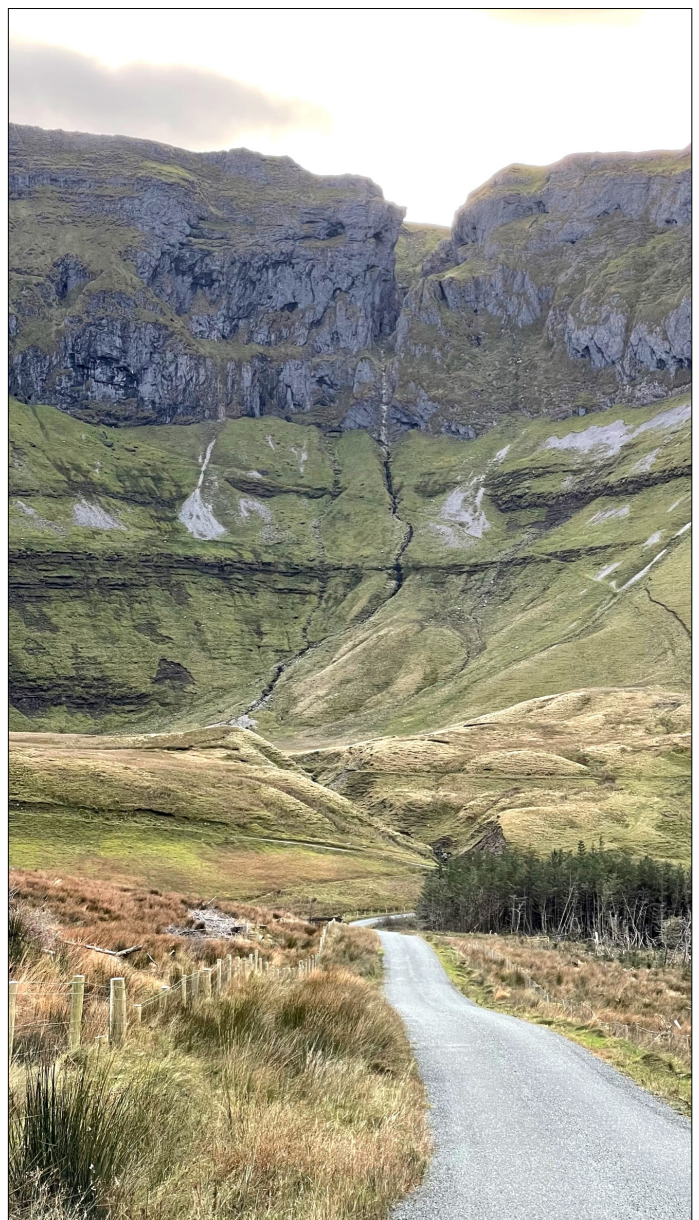
I also had the opportunity to get back to a couple of favorites. Glendalough in County Wicklow is where I had triggered my plantar fasciitis in 2016, and I had not enjoyed the monastic settlement as much as I could have. This time, feeling tip-top, I was able to walk amongst the 1500 year-old ruins and enjoy some of the trails in the area. There's fantastic hiking at Glendalough, if you ever find your way there.

*Cosáin Sásta... Happy Trails...*

**BETHANY COMELLA**

***Trail Works President***

*Hore Abbey (left), Bunratty (top right), the Gleniff horseshoe drive (right), and Glendalough (below)*







# IN SEARCH OF SNOW

For the past several years, I've stayed in New York over the winter to ski and snowshoe while my husband heads to Florida. Waiting there for him is our youngest daughter with a "daddy-do" list, a grand dog he loves, and obviously much warmer weather. Waiting up here for me...certainly not enough snow this year! It's been a disappointing winter for sure for anyone who likes to play in the snow!

So you have to get creative and go *find* the snow.

I did that at the end of January, and headed north for the ADK Black River Chapter Winter Outing Weekend at the Mad River Club in Lacona. About 40 people

attended from all around New York, as well as some out-of-state folks from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. While the snow arrived just in time for the Winter Outing, the temperatures hovering around freezing made that snow just sticky enough to cause headaches for anyone with skis, waxed or waxless. I learned a lot about ski wax that weekend...MaxiGlide, good old paraffin, and spray-on Pam!

The event itself was impressive in the sense of program, food, and comradery. It was very well organized by Trail Works member Rich Ross and his team at the ADK Black River Chapter. The program this year centered on "winter preparedness." There were videos



playing throughout the weekend focusing on various aspects of winter safety, XC skiing technique, and the “46ers” movie. Education chair Jessie Irwin showed us how to construct a “super shelter” outdoors. By using the laws of physics and a fire, he was able to create a warm environment *inside* the shelter using basic materials one might need and find in the winter woods.

A homemade chili dinner on Friday night and two wonderful hot breakfasts were provided that weekend, as well as sandwich fixings for a trail lunches. One catered meal was provided Saturday night with an abundance of yummy desserts. Entertainment included a custom Jenga “46ers” game with no rules (anything goes) that provided a lot of edge-of-your-seat excitement and laughs, as well as a 50-50 drawing, door prizes, and a stream of Rich’s winter-themed riddles and jokes!

Saturday outings included ski choices for beginners starting right at the Club, to the more advanced 10K ski at Winona State Forest. After the frustration of snow sticking to my skis first thing, I chose a midmorning Winona snowshoe trek. A 10K snowshoe option was also offered at Osceola State Forest Preserve for the heartiest of the group. Sunday’s final outing for me was a hike to Salmon River Falls before the rain set in for the ride home.

This was a very enjoyable weekend for me with snow and new friendships. You have to expand your area of fun during these strange winters we are having! I hope to go back next year when the Black River Chapter once again hosts this winter weekend event. Special thanks to Rich Ross and his wonderful team for such a nice weekend!

**NANCY SNYDER**

# The Dirty Thirty Experience

I was so surprised and happy when I got a message from Mark DeCracker on New Year’s Day telling me I had won the Wegman’s Gift Card in the Dirty 30 drawing. What a great way to start 2023!

My husband, Tim, and I started hiking the Dirty 30 in the fall of 2021. We were looking for some shorter hikes in a different area; this hike series did both! We live in Fairport and are very familiar with the Crescent Trail System, as well as the park trails in Monroe County. Some hikes in Wayne County would get us out of our comfort zone. We also have an older dog, Lola, who still enjoys getting out, but may not have the endurance she used to, so an hour hike would be her maximum. If she did get a little tired, we have a K-9 Sport Sack she could ride in.

Some of my favorite hikes included Beechwood, Alasa

Farms and Whistlewood. Although we read the descriptions, we never knew what to expect and these definitely impressed us. Part of the fun/challenge was looking for the Passport Marker. Some were quite obvious; others took a little more effort! We did most of our Dirty 30 hiking in the fall and winter. During the summer months we enjoy hiking in the Adirondacks and hope to finish the 46 High Peak Series this year (4 to go!).

Whether it’s a 12 hour hike that took a lot of planning and effort, or a spontaneous 45 minute hike at the end of a busy day, getting out in nature is the end goal for most hikers. The Dirty 30 helped us do that, and paid for some groceries as well! Thank You!

**SARAH KLIMASEWSKI**



# THE BIRDS OF *Wayne County*

It's been a tough year to view the winter birds with the lack of snow and the bare ground. Those wonderful feather friends are looking other places for their nutrition. That didn't stop the over 50 people who attended the Backyard Winter Bird Seminar at the Lyons Community Center on January 26<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Aspen Birds and Pine Creek. Josh Stasik, from Aspen Seeds did a very entertaining and informative presentation on attracting birds and what seeds they are looking for. Josh also handed out prizes for those who knew their birds. The first slide was of an Indigo Bunting. I raised my hand and won a bird feeder. Before the night was done many other types of bird feeders were handed out. In addition, everyone in attendance was given a bag of bird seed. Everyone walked away happy and excited to feed the birds. Now all we need is some snow for our backyard entertainment. Josh also handed out a flyer to help identify the backyard birds.

\ With the recent snow and ice storm (*ed: late February*), my feeders are full of my feather friends.

Unfortunately, it's too late for the backyard bird count.

**MARK DECRACKER**

*Vice-President, Trail Works, Inc.*







# TRAIL WORKS 2023 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 2023, your membership in Trail Works expired effective December 31, 2022. 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.

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**

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## Trail Works, Inc. 2023 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

APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2023

<i>date</i>	<i>event</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>event</i>
APRIL 18	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Zoom, 7:00 p.m.	MAY 16	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
APRIL 20	<b>Wildflowers of Wayne Cty.</b> Wolcott Library, 6:30 p.m.	JUNE 3	<b>National Trails Day Hike</b> Location & Time TBD
APRIL 22	<b>Earth Day “Clean Sweep”</b> Rte 31/Gannett, Clyde, 9 a.m.	JUNE 3-4	<b>National Trails Day Weekend</b> Location & Time TBD
MAY 13	<b>Birding Walk w/SOAR/DEC</b> TBD, 10:30 a.m.	JUNE 10	<b>ADK Expo</b> Mendon Ponds Park
MAY 20	<b>Sodus Point Hike</b> Macyville Trail, 10:00 a.m.	JUNE 20	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Zoom, 7:00 p.m.