

TWI-LIGHTS

VOLUME 7 | Fall 2023

Alasa Farms News
Land Trust
Properties

Trail Works Walk-Through of Third
Creek Trail with DEC

Along the Hojack
Trail
Trail Reminders &
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Annual Meeting
And More

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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.

WEBSITE: <https://trailworks.org>

MEET THE TWI BOARD

President	Bethany Comella	Members at Large
Vice-President	Mark DeCracker	Gary Abbott
Treasurer	Barb DeRoo	Gil Burgess
Recording & Corresponding Secretary	Sal Vittozzi	Glenn Wallis
	Nancy Snyder	



Trail Works Walk-Through of Third Creek Trail with DEC

Mid-September brought representatives from Trail Works and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) together for an end-to-end walk-through of the Third Creek Trail on Shaker Tract Road. The trail is part of the Lake Shore Marshes Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Shaker Tract Unit, which is managed by the DEC for hunting, fishing, and hiking. The trail follows some of the old logging roads on the property once owned by the Shaker Land Company in the 1960s. The property later became part of the Nature Conservancy in 2011 and then the State shortly thereafter.

The purpose of the walk-through was to assess the condition of the trail and discuss improving it for public use. Trail Works, as a local organization that promotes, advocates for, and maintains trails, has been in communication with the DEC about the Third Creek Trail for over 10 years. Our relationships with local towns, county, and state agencies help us to achieve these goals. As the Trail Works liaison to the DEC, I work closely with Frank Morlock and his staff at the local field office in Savannah for trail-related issues and projects.

The walk-through was attended by Gary Abbott, Tim Wilbur, and myself from Trail Works, Frank Morlock, Felicia, and Shawn from DEC. We walked the entire length of the trail, which is about 2.5 miles one way, and observed the features and challenges of the trail. The trail offers scenic views of Third Creek, which flows into Sodus Bay, and the surrounding wetlands and shrublands. The trail is mostly flat and easy to follow, but it has some sections that are wet, muddy, or overgrown. The trail is adjacent to some

private property to the west (Cracker Box Palace at Historic Alasa Farms), and a private landowner to the south. DEC maintains and manages the property to nurture many different wildlife and bird habitats. DEC occasionally uses a forestry cutter to maintain the adjacent shrublands to the trail to enhance the habitat every few years. The shrublands are pictured in the photo on our cover.



Progress has been made on the trail since our walkthrough. A new DEC I.D. sign has been installed at the south entrance, construction on a second, small gravel parking lot has started at the northwest entrance across from Briscoe Cove Road. Eventually, a gate and another DEC I.D. sign will be added at the north entrance. We are advocating for a kiosk there to provide information and maps for trail users.

Frank complimented Gary Abbott, our "branch manager" and primary trail caretaker, for his good work on maintaining this trail over the years. Gary spent a few days later this fall repairing the footbridge crossing Third Creek at the south end of the trail and putting it back in place after it washed out.



Winter newsletter deadline for articles is March 1st, 2024

Please have newsletter articles and photos sent to Trailworks@trailworks.org

Trail Works Walk-Through of Third Creek Trail with DEC

The footbridge should last a few more years, and when it needs replacing, DEC is ready to provide materials and resources to help us do this. We also looked at two culverts on the property, one of which will need attention in the near future. DEC used a trail recording app to map out the trail, and this will enable them to eventually put the new map on their interactive website for all to use. We also added more Trail Works and DEC trail markers to the trail. We decided to move the Trail Works passport post (used to get your passport rubbing or virtual app badge) closer to

the trail as it turns west since some hikers have had a difficult time finding it over the years. Another project for Gary!

This is Trail Works at its best: working together with other agencies to promote, advocate for and help maintain trails in Wayne County! The walk-through was a positive and productive experience that strengthened the relationship between Trail Works and the NYS DEC.

By Nancy Snyder

Alasa Farms Trails News

Alasa Farms has implemented a Deer Control Pilot Program effective October 1, 2023, through spring of 2024 under the guidance of our partners at the Genesee Land Trust and New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation. We are allowing bow hunting only by a limited number of designated hunters who are each assigned to their own hunting zone on the 627-acre property. Tree stands are in use and are required to face away from any trails or farm roads.

Through the end of 2023, we ask that hikers limit their activities to the red Bentley Bond's trail along Second Creek and Thornton Point where no hunters are assigned. For optimum safety during this time, it's recommended that you wear blaze orange and contact the Alasa Farms office to



let us know when you are on the trail. Contact us by calling 315-483-2493 or email to info@crackerboxpalace.org.

The farmstead is always a no hunting zone and is open to visitors year-round. The animals would love to see you! Don't forget to bring pumpkins left over from your harvest décor for their eating enjoyment. Pumpkins should not have paint or candle residue on them.

You will see a pile at the Cow Barn awaiting your contribution.

Submitted by : Barb DeRoo, Board of Directors, Cracker



Land Trust Properties in Wayne County

Featured: Cornwall Preserve, Pultneyville and Macyville Woods, Sodus Point

In early 2021 Genesee Land Trust received funding through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to restore wetlands and improve wildlife habitat at two nature preserves— Cornwall Preserve in Williamson and Macyville Woods Nature Preserve in Sodus Point. This project took place over two years and will allow Genesee Land Trust to restore and enhance wetlands, remove non-native invasive plants, and to plant native vegetation that will benefit birds and other wildlife.

Wetlands protected by NAWCA provide valuable benefits such as flood control, reducing coastal erosion, improving water and air quality, and recharging ground water.

At Cornwall Preserve this includes creating a wetland mosaic in the shrub-wetlands located east of the meadow, treating invasive plants along Lake Ontario's edge, and planting native plants in both of these areas. At Macyville Woods Nature Preserve this includes connecting an impounded wetland, treating invasive plants, and planting native plants.

In the Spring 2023-Volunteers planted over 3000 native trees and shrubs in areas where invasive plants were treated and newly excavated wetland areas.

If you visit Cornwall now, you will notice that part of the meadow has been mowed. This is done on a 2-3 year rotation to allow the meadow grasses to thrive and to keep the adjoining forest from creeping into the meadow.

For more info:

<https://www.geneseeandtrust.org>

By Carol May



Destination: Red Creek Along the HoJack Trail

Traveling east along the HoJack Trail, hikers approaching the Village of Red Creek on an elevated section of railbed some 30 feet above street level will note to their right the imposing brick structure of the former Red Creek Union Academy. Recognized with a Pomeroy historic marker in 2021, the property is now privately owned but retains its 1860 façade.

Reaching the site where the railbed was once carried over the village street by an overpass, today's travelers will ascend the grassy embankment to street level and proceed east for a short distance to Main Street. Directly across the street lies the 1871 depot of the Lake Ontario Shore Railroad (now a private residence). Adjacent to the depot is Nathali's Farm Market, featuring produce, nature themed gifts, and a spectacular display of seasonal flowering plants and fall decor.

To the north of the depot lies Fullers, a "drive in" type eatery offering hand-made pizza, ice cream, salads, sandwiches and numerous deep-fried delights. Outdoor seating is available.

Just a short walk further north (visible from Fullers) is Wager's Country Apple, a country emporium offering baked goods made on site, orchard fresh apples, local food and craft products and a huge array of antiques and collectibles.

A two block walk to the south will bring to view several examples of 1830s architecture, including the Cuyler Man-

sion, a beautiful brick structure on manicured grounds. At the south end of Main Street lies the historic Water Street Block, featuring the oldest buildings in the village.

Beyond the Water Street Block is the former Red Lake, now known as the Red Creek Pond. A small park with a picnic table lies at the pond's edge.

Crossing to the west side of Main Street, and again moving to the north, visitors will be greeted with an historic mural, created by Mural Mania in 2022 – 2023. Presently the largest mural in Wayne County, the mural contains five "windows", each featuring an important event in village history. The mural is mounted on the exterior wall of the Opera House Café, a restored 1894 building. The Café offers a wide array of coffees, teas, pastries and light lunches. Village memorabilia is displayed there.

Walking north along Church Street, the 1870 brick Methodist Church can be viewed. Beyond that is the Academy and trailhead.

At the top of hill marking the start of the trail, to the north, is an amusing view of numerous "minions" constructed of recycled

scrap metal and household appliances. Hopefully, the minions will send visitors on the homeward trail with a smile and pleasant memories of a visit to Red Creek, "My Kind of Town"!

Submitted by Red Creek Historical Society



Trails, Trails, & More Trails!

Trails Reminders & Updates

As we approach the winter season, here are some trail reminders that will be helpful to our membership:

- **Huckleberry Swamp** in North Rose closes for the winter. Watch their Facebook page for an announcement of reopening in the spring.
- The Dolomite Group has closed the property formerly housing the Canandaigua Road **Dolomite Trail**. We mentioned this in our Winter/Spring 2023 Newsletter page 2. While Trail Works has explored several avenues to keep this trail open, all have failed, and we have removed this trail listing from our website. It will also be removed from our Smartphone App, and our Wayne County “Hit the Trail” Passport Booklet at the next printing. In the meantime, please do not go onto this property. The Trail Works Board is looking into other Wayne County trails to add to the Passport booklet in the future. However, for right now, we would suggest exploring the **Macyville Woods Nature Preserve** in Sodus Point (a Genesee Land Trust Property), and the **Wolcott to Red Creek “Hojack” Rail Trail**.
- Check the NYS DEC website for hunting season dates throughout the winter. Regular deer shotgun season will be over by the time you receive this newsletter, but other seasons exist throughout the winter (bear, turkey, etc). See this link for details: https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/huntseason23.pdf. Several of these seasons go into next year, so be safe, check the area you want to hike, XC ski or snowshoe in before you go. Also wearing bright colors, orange or pink, is highly recommended, as well as for your pet on the trail. The DEC trails we promote are: **Third Creek Trail, Whistlewood Trail, Turtle Pond Trail, and the Galen Trail**.
- **Chimney Bluffs State Park** allows hunting by permit. **Sanctuary at Crowfield Farm** has been closed in the past for hunting, and as this newsletter states, some limited bow hunting by designated hunters only is now allowed on the **Alasa Farms** property for a limited amount of time. Check regulations before you venture out!
- Many trails allow snowmobiles in the winter through special arrangements and permits, especially some Wayne County properties and **Chimney Bluffs State Park**. **Black Brook Park, Lauraville Landing, Sodus-Wallington Rail Trail** are trails that come to mind. Share the trails safely! If you are XC skiing or snowshoeing, step off the trail and let the sleds go by. You will always hear them coming but they won’t necessarily see you until the last minute.

Be safe out there! Wear bright colors, check the area you want to explore, and respect other trail users. Enjoy the winter wonderland!

Trail Works T-Shirts Available



New Trail Works t-shirts and sweatshirts are available. They come small, medium, large and x-large.

T-shirts come in teal and maroon. Sweatshirts are available in maroon.

T-shirts can be purchased from board members and at Trail Works events .

Call Mark 315-573-8170



Wayne County Trails

There are many well marked trails within Wayne County. For a break from the busy holiday season, feel free to take a break by taking a walk at one of these fine trails.

These trails are well defined and described when using the Wegmans Passport which can be downloaded at: <https://trailworks.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Passport-PDF.pdf>



Alasa Farms
Beechwood State Park
Bicentennial Trail
Blue Cut Nature Center
Black Brook Park
Butterfly Nature Trail
Casey Park
Chimney Bluffs State Park
Cornwall Preserve
Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 56

Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve
Historic Lyons
Huckleberry Swamp
Lauraville Landing Trail
Lockville
Kraai Preserve
Montezuma Audubon Trail
Palmyra Wetland Nature Trail
Richmond Aqueduct Trail
Sanctuary at Crowfield Farm

Sherburne Park Nature Trail
Sodus-Wallington Rail Trail
Third Creek
Trail of Hope
Turtle Pond
West Shore Trail
Whistlewood
Williamson Town Loop
Wolcott Falls

There are several other trails not included in the Passport book which you might also be interested in hiking.

Wolcott to Red Creek Rail Trail (Wolcott)
Malone's Creekside Trail
Marten's Tract Trail
Old Erie Canal Trail, Lyons to Clyde
Sexton Prospect Park (Palmyra)
Sarah's Enchanted Forest (Newark)
Zurich Bog (Arcadia)
Galen Trail (River Rd., Clyde)
Macyville Woodland Nature Preserve (Sodus Point)

Beechwood State Park Update Interview

With Sal Vittozzi as told to Rich Ross and Nancy Snyder

On Wednesday, Dec 6th, we visited Beechwood State Park and met with Sal Vittozzi, the park manager and caretaker. The park has gone through dramatic changes over the years, and Sal was able to walk with and update us on the operation, improvement projects, and future of the park. Sal, himself, is very open and described how he got the job five years ago after competing with 40 other applicants. He is starting his sixth year at the park. He is from Palmyra but was born on Long Island.

As caretaker, he works around the clock to maintain the park, assist visitors, ensure safety, and engages with the local community and various groups that use the park. When Beechwood opened for camping, anyone could camp without any fee. Since April 2022, there has been a charge of \$15/night which people didn't mind paying. These fees are instrumental to buy more tools and materials, and make repairs and future improvements in the park.

The Town of Sodus also bought Sal a new utility vehicle with Covid relief funds to improve his access around the 130-acre park. He checks on the safety of the campers and folks in the park, and frequently checks the security cameras now in place throughout the park to minimize vandalism and illegal hunting.

At first, he just thought the job was maintenance related, but it's evolved into a job with a community aspect as he attends Town of Sodus meetings, hosts many Scout troops in the park year-round, and interacts with groups such as Trail Works and the birding and mycophile (mushroom) communities.



As we walked by the old mess hall, which was the largest building on the property, he reported that it burned down in August of 2018. Sal has been clearing out each side of the old pool area with a mower and weed trimmer with future plans to offer outdoor events. There are a number of trails which he has cleaned up and made more accessible for hikers and XC skiers.

Many outside organizations have helped, and

most recently, the Boy Scouts have worked on reducing multiflora rose.

During our 1 hour-plus walk, we asked Sal several questions.

Q: Do you have people come to you who've heard about you from other groups?

"All the time! People see me as I'm in the camp throughout the day and highly visible circling around checking on people and the park. Last season, we had one 4H project and 5 Eagle Scout projects, including work on the A-frames, replacing the "rubber-band" bridge, and a bridge at the East entrance. We also have a yearly week of 4H campers each July camping in the east section of the park."

Q: With all that you have going on at the park, can you continue to work with groups like Trail Works?

"Yes, that's very doable, and I'm willing to continue on the Trail Works Board. Summer and fall are my busiest times when it's harder because I have to close up the camp during meeting times, but with the cooler



Beechwood State Park Update Interview

weather, I'll be able to make more meetings."

Q: You've been at the park for five years. Where do you see yourself in another five years?

"Right here! I'm trying to stay until I'm 80 years old! As long as I can get on the mower, I'm staying! It's all the things I love to do all rolled into one!"

Q: What can Trail Works do for Sal? There's always value in an organization...what can we do for you?

"Spread the word about what's going on at Beechwood. We've made improvements trying to make the park better than ever. We want families here again, Scout troops, and community groups. Beechwood is a haven for the birding community, and in the spring, birders are at the park at 5:30 a.m., sometimes with hundreds of bird sightings within a single day. All are welcome. Just spread the word."

Right at the end of the loop on the edge of the bluff, we came upon a single fireplace/chimney structure looking rather odd all by itself. Sal explained that a lot of land has been lost from the bluff, some 70 feet of land since he started five years ago. People still use the fireplace, but need to be careful as the bluff is now undercut somewhat from erosion. The bluff continuously gets the high waves and fierce winds.

Q: Tell us about your time on Long Island.

"I grew up on Long Island and moved to Wayne County when I was 13 years old. I was shocked to see how people lived here...there weren't a lot of people, no garbage, no traffic, no graffiti. Thirty years later, I prefer to stay in the park every day. I still have a ton of family on Long Island. I moved to Palmyra, made new friends, and went from hanging out in the city to hanging out in the woods. Thirty years later, I consider myself "countrified."

On a more personal note, Sal told us a little about himself. He has two dogs, Rosie and Elmer. Rosie is a black lab and Bassett mix, and Elmer is a shepherd and huskie mix. December is Sal's favorite time in the park. It's pretty quiet which enables him to walk his dogs and gives him a little break from activities. He can hang out at the park on his own and enjoys this time.

Sal is the face of Beechwood State Park. Every single day, he is thankful. It's everything he likes to do and although it's long hours, he feels like he's semi-retired because he loves every second in the park. It's the kind of job most can only dream about and hope for in their lifetime.

Editors Note: Sal provided a tremendous amount of information which we hope to provide in upcoming issues of the TWI-LIGHTS Newsletter. Each should provide very interesting topics and insight as to the future of this "close-to-home" outdoor venue.



Past Tracks

#OptOutside Hike 2023

There were at least 25 people who did not want to shop on Black Friday! Our biggest hike of the year, the #OptOutside hike drew folks to the Bentley Bond's (red) trail on The Cracker Box Palace property at Historic Alasa Farms. Despite the low 30-degree temperature, it was clear that many people would rather be enjoying the outdoors.

This trail is a hidden gem among the trails at the Farm. Even though it's only 1.5 miles round trip, it boasts two Boy Scout projects, a waterfall, and a scenic lookout of Great Sodus Bay.

The first Eagle Scout project you come to is usually missed except to someone with a keen eye. At the trailhead, there's an obscured wooden sign, now leaning up against a tree, detailing the project; the Second Creek staircase going down to the waterfall.



Past Tracks

The second Eagle Scout project is more recent and toward the beginning of the trail as well. Look for a newly installed bat house on the right-hand side of the trail.



Through the ups and downs and bends of this trail, those who joined us chatted with friends and family along the way. Speaking of family, we had several families with us,



including an extended family with five children and another with a furry friend!

Everyone enjoyed the journey to the north end, although our time at the lookout was short because of the biting wind.

After the hike, the group enjoyed hot chocolate, trail mix and snack bars back at the trailhead. The children especially enjoyed the hot chocolate with a spoonful of Cool Whip!

If you have not made a trip to this trail, you are missing out on nature's beauty at it's best. Hiking poles are recommended because of a few rolling and steep hills. ** Fun Fact** The Bently Bond's Trail was named after a dog!

Submitted by Nancy Snyder



Past Tracks

Trail Works Fall Foliage Hike Along the Hojack Trail

What a magical day it was in October to discover a hidden treasure in Red Creek, NY. The Hojack Trail is an old railroad bed with railroad ties still intact on the trail. It is a nice, easy, flat but bumpy 2.5-mile hike. The fall foliage was at its peak. One side was a beautiful fall foliage tree line with a cornfield, then walk a little farther and the view of the ravines present bilaterally with the woods creating a peaceful presence.

The last mile we were greeted by two wonderful singing women from the historical society welcoming us to the great Village of Red Creek. We were educated with the history of the Village.

During our walk there was a contest for the best-looking leaf where the judging would occur at our end destination site, the Opera House Cafe.

We were able to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea with a variety of homemade baked goods. Our board member, Gary, thought if he put his leaf in the mouthwatering cinnamon bun that he would be the winner. After great thought from the judges, Mark DeCracker won the contest with a great ribbon.

If you haven't stopped by Red Creek, I encourage to walk the serene trail and then visit the wonderful family own businesses at the end of the trail. Submitted by Marie Cramer



Trail Works Inc.



2023 Trail Works Annual Meeting

Trail Works Inc. is holding our annual meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting link will be sent closer to that date. Please join us to celebrate our accomplishments in 2023 and make plans for 2024. Below are the proposed bylaw amendments followed by the ballot which you can fill-out and return as noted.

Proposed Amendments to Trail Works Inc. Bylaws

1. Trail Works Inc Dissolution Plan

Current Article II Section 2: In the case of the dissolution of this association, any funds in the treasury will be distributed to the United Way of Wayne County.

Proposed Article II Section 2: In the case of the dissolution of this association, funds in the treasury will be distributed to the United Way of Wayne County or 50% to Cracker Box Palace at Alasa Farms and 50% to the Beechwood State Park Committee for Camp Beechwood. Dissolution will be carried out as outlined in the Trail Works, Inc Plan of Dissolution adopted by the Board of Directors March 21, 2023 and attached to these Bylaws as Exhibit A.

2. Change Membership Renewal Date to Match Member's Date of Affiliation (Rolling Membership)

Current Article IV Section 2: Except as otherwise provided, each new member shall pay to the Treasurer initial dues equal to the full amount of the annual dues for the appropriate class of membership. If such new membership is effective after October 1st in any calendar year, the initial payment of dues shall be applicable to the succeeding year. Thus, all dues fall due in January on the date of the annual meeting, irrespective of the date of affiliation.

Proposed Article IV Section 2: Except as otherwise provided, each new member shall pay to the Treasurer initial dues equal to the full amount of the annual dues for the appropriate class of membership. New memberships are effective on the date in which the initial affiliation was made and will renew in that same month annually.

TRAIL WORKS, INC. ANNUAL MEETING BALLOT

2024-2026 TERM

Election of Officers and Voting Board Members – Please circle a candidate for each officer position and 2 candidates (and/or write in additional candidates) for Voting At Large Board members. All candidates must be Trail Works members in good standing.

Officers:

President 2024-2025 only to complete vacated term:

Mark DeCracker

Vice President:

At Large Board members:

Glenn Wallis

Sal Vittozzi

Bylaws Amendments:

1. Trail Works Dissolution Plan YES NO

2. Rolling Membership YES NO

If you are unable to attend Trail Works Inc Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom please mail your ballot to:

Trail Works Inc PO Box 43 Williamson NY 14589-0043 by Friday January 19th.

To vote by mail, please fold your ballot in half with the blank side out, label it BALLOT and mail it in an envelope with your return address on it.

If you have not paid membership dues in 2023, please do so to vote. You may renew either by mailing a check to the address above or via PayPal on our website: www.trailworks.org. Thank you!



Trail Works, Inc.
P. O. Box 43
Williamson, NY 14589
www.trailworks.org
Trailworks@trailworks.org

Trail Works Membership Form

Check Type of Membership:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	# of Family Members	

Name:

Address:

City:

Phone:

State:

Zip:

Email:

Make Checks payable to Trail Works, Inc.

Mail to: Trail Works, Inc.
P.O. Box 43
Williamson, NY 14589

Trail Works Inc.

PO Box 43

Williamson, NY 14589

www.trailworks.org

Trail Works Event Calendar January-February 2024

Date	Event
Dec 19	Monthly Meeting 7pm via Zoom
Jan 1	First Day Hike 1pm Casey Park
Jan 16	Monthly Meeting 7pm via Zoom
Jan 23	Annual Meeting 7pm via Zoom
Feb 18	Winter Hike May's Farm 2-4pm