

TWI-LIGHTS

Volume 9 | **Fall 2025**



Beechwood
State Park

New Trail North Rose

Canal Challenge

Seneca Chief

Thank you,
Corporate
Members,

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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>

Front and Back Photos: Nancy Snyder

MEET THE TWI BOARD

President	Barb DeRoo	Members at Large
Vice President	Holly Burgess	Gary Abbott
Secretary	Caileigh Shippers	Gil Burgess
Treasurer	Nancy Snyder	Mark DeCracker
Newsletter	Nancy Snyder	Tom Kolankiewicz
	Rich Ross	Mike Shippers
		Sal Vittozzi
		Glenn Wallis



Next newsletter deadline for articles is March 1st, 2026
 Please have newsletter articles and photos sent to Trailworks@trailworks.org

From the Editor:

It's been a busy summer for Trail Works! We've had at least three events per month keeping our Board members running! But the highlight of summer was certainly the Wayne County visits of the Seneca Chief, a recreated replica of the first canal boat to make the cross-state journey along the length of the Erie Canal in 1825. Trail Works' own Joan & Glenn Wallis were heavily involved in the planning and implementation of these visits. I had the delightful experience of greeting the Seneca Chief at Abbey Park in Lyons on October 1, as she made her way close to shore to the beat of the Towpath Fife and Drum Corp Volunteers, along with a real mule named "Sal," before following her down through Lock 27 to dock in Lyons.

I also had the chance to visit with local digital creator, John Kucko, who was following the Seneca Chief on her entire journey along the canal. Members Mark DeCracker and Ed Sawester were also part of the day's festivities. Thank you, all. With stops in Newark, Lyons and Clyde, the Seneca Chief drew very large crowds of people, many of



whom waited hours to get a chance to board the boat. There are a couple of articles here about the Seneca Chief, starting with a pre-visit hike to the E-56 area, and also one from a Board member who actually got to ride on the Seneca Chief. Can you guess who that was?

New subject: a special shout out to members Tim Wilbur and Tom Kolankiewicz for another successful Shoreline Hike series this year. The brainchild of Tim, this has blossomed into a May-September once-a-month event. We lovingly call this the "Tim & Tom" show. We hope you had a chance to catch one of these excellent hikes. If not, there's always next summer.

Lastly, many of you have not yet renewed your membership from this past year. Don't forget, we now have a rolling membership in place, so if you renew right now, your membership is good for a whole year. Please take a moment to do this. Our membership dues are a modest cost and they go a long way in helping us throughout the year. If you are unsure of the status of your membership, please email us at trailworks@trailworks.org, and we'll let you know. You can find our membership form as a download on our website.

Happy Trails!
Nancy Snyder



Left hand picture: The Seneca Chief leaving Abbey Park in Lyons heading to Lock 27.

Middle picture: "I've got an old mule and her name is Sal. Fifteen years on the Erie Canal. She's a good old worker and a good old pal, fifteen years on the Erie Canal."

Right hand picture: The Towpath Fife and Drum Corp Volunteers from Macedon, NY.

Canal Challenge Historic Hike

By Glenn Wallis

Saturday July 12th was a warm and muggy day to be outdoors.

Eleven of us hiked a 3.5-mile canal challenge as part of the Wayne County segment of the state-wide initiative to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the original Erie Canal. Jane Milem, Wayne County Historian, had put together 15 miles of hiking along the canal corridor in Wayne County. The route took us past historic canal features, murals of local canal history, an up-close look at the Lyons Dry Dock and Lock 28A of today's active canal, in addition to a memorable visit to the historic Poorhouse Grocery (now a private residence). Much needed water and snacks were provided by Jane and also Allyn Perry, current resident of the historic Poorhouse Grocery, who warmly greeted us to her home and showed off her collection of canal memorabilia. Our final leg took us along the Trail Works Enlarged Erie canal Lock 56 Trail.



The route can begin at either of two parking lots which serve the Empire State Trail. We met at the lot on County House Rd., just north of the trail, and between the County House Bridge and Old Lyons Rd. You can also park at the pocket park adjacent to the Dry Dock on Old Lyons Rd. Here you will find signage and the only bench along the route. Another alternative is to park on Dry Dock Road, east of the Poorhouse Grocery. While the road is permanently closed at Lock 28A, you can find a place to park along the road leading up to it. You can travel the route in either direction.

The variations in scenery, the history and a few stops made for an interesting day.



Wedding of the Waters

My Seneca Chief Journey by Mark DeCracker

It all started for me in April, 1988, when I presented Senator Patric Moyihan an idea of how to improve the Erie Canal. I called the organization **E.R.I.E. (Erie's Restoration Interests Everyone.)** This led to my concern about the lack of interest in the historical aspects of the Erie Canal. The historic iconic Erie Canal had been neglected for years, old locks were overgrown, there was garbage floating in the locks...it was time to make a difference. At the courthouse, four individuals approached me and said, "let's start an organization." On that April day, **E.R.I.E** was born.



Over the next few years, we advocated for a linear trail across the state, started an Earth Day cleanup which is now called Canal Clean Sweep, focused on the restoration and cleanup of historic Lock E-56, (now one of our Passport trails). This united two boyhood friends who were hoggees** on the Enlarged Erie Canal, now both in their late 90's. (Hoggees** were most often young boys who guided mules along the canal towpath.)

Lastly, in October, 1991, we organized and participated in the second Wedding of the Waters to bring attention to the Erie Canal. We didn't have a Seneca Chief, but we had a floating stage we took from Tonawanda to Albany with stops along the Erie Canal, just like the Seneca Chief. The stage was pulled by the tugboat "**Lockport.**" In Albany, we exchanged kegs, and rode the historic tug "**Urger**" down the Hudson River to New York City, where we dumped the waters from around the world and Lake Erie into the Hudson River, symbolizing the Wedding of the Waters, connecting waters from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes.

Six years ago, the Buffalo Maritime Museum started planning for this 200-year-old celebration with a replica of the Seneca Chief canal boat which DeWitt Clinton rode 200 years ago, when it made stops along the Erie Canal to celebrate the opening of this eighth wonder of the world. Year 2025 represents the bicentennial of the Erie Canal.

A year ago, the dates were announced with stops along the Erie Canal. Wayne County was selected for three dates, September 30 in Newark, October 1 in Lyons and October 2 in Clyde. Mural Mania was commissioned to paint a "Welcome to Lyons" mural along the Erie Canal bike trail. With the importance of the Seneca Chief, we painted the Seneca Chief into the mural. This led to the crew of the current Seneca Chief asking for a photo of them by the Lyons mural. As a result, I was invited to ride the Seneca Chief from Lyons to Clyde.



The night before, I asked the captain if we could transport the new Lauraville Landing sign aboard the Seneca Chief to Clyde. They all thought it was a good idea to represent the transportation aspect of the Erie Canal. These signs are part of a Cornell Cooperative Extension grant for new and restored trail signage for Clyde.

Having the opportunity to ride on the Seneca Chief was something I will never forget. It brought back all the wonderful memories from 1991 with the excitement of arriving at each port. The inside of the Seneca Chief was amazing; the craftsmanship was masterful. There were special sleeping quarters for the dignitaries which originally included DeWitt Clinton and Jessie Hawley.





During the 1991 trip, I played Jessie Hawley, so it was special to see a replica of the boat he rode on and where he slept. The Seneca Chief was named to honor the Haudenosaunee nation, and on board they had a Hiawatha belt. With each stop along the journey, the crew of the Seneca Chief presented each community with a White pine. To the Haudenosaunee nation, the White pine was a tree of peace.

During the ride, I had the opportunity to get some interesting interviews, including the chief boat builder Roger Allen, who explained the boat building process as a hands-on learning experience (see link below). The ride between Lyons and Clyde is called the wilderness area along the Erie Canal, which offers a variety of birding experiences including blue herons, kingfishers and eagles. As far as the day, it was a beautiful, sunny day with temperatures in the 80's.

When we arrived in Clyde, we were greeted by over 200 bystanders. The first thing that was done was to have historian Steve Groat hand the Lauraville Landing sign to the Clyde Historical Society. It was a special day, and we are looking forward to the return trip to Wayne County in the spring of 2026, and a possible stop at historic Lock 56.

What a special occasion that would be!

Interview with chief boat builder, Roger Allen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fz2JYNh5vc&t=7s>.



Glenmark Nature Park North Rose

On Sunday, September 21, the Town of Rose held a ribbon cutting ceremony to open a new park in the North Rose area of Glenmark Creek. This has been a dream of many in the Town of Rose for over 60 years. Local residents recall fishing in the creek, and remember picnicking there as kids and playing along the creek banks. One even remembered sliding down the falls as a kid!

About four years ago, the owner of the land donated the acreage to the Town of Rose upon his passing. Working with the Town of Rose highway dept and with advice from Wayne Count Soil & Water District, the new nature trail was developed, and opened in September.

The trail is a short loop with a small waterfall at the south end of the park. A local Scout completed an information kiosk for his Eagle Scout project, and a scout troop constructed benches. A couple of picnic tables and benches are available along the trail. Parking is available at the trail head on the road, and a bicycle rack is available. This is a carry in-carry out park. The park location is on Glenmark Road west of the village of North Rose. Trail Works will be meeting with the Rose Town Board in October to discuss possible collaborations involving this trail. Stop in soon to get a look at this very nice new trail!



Final Summer Shoreline Hike at Alasa Farms Bentley Bond's Red Trail and a Personal Goal - Submitted by Aaron Netsky

"We leave you this Sunday Morning in Sodus, New York, on Bentley Bond's Trail at Alasa Farms, among the toads, chipmunks, and spiders." The "Moment of Nature" segment has always been my favorite part of CBS Sunday Morning, but this year I've been seeking out more immersive "Moment of Nature" experiences. This is in large part due to my getting involved with the Genesee Land Trust, a conservation organization based in Rochester, New York, with 8,000 acres of protected lands from Caledonia to Sodus and beyond. This year, I became a donor and a volunteer (they call us Trail Keepers), and made it a goal to get to all of the Genesee Land Trust's preserves before the end of 2025. At the time of this writing, I have one left. This goal has taken me into Wayne County several times and ultimately introduced me to Trail Works.



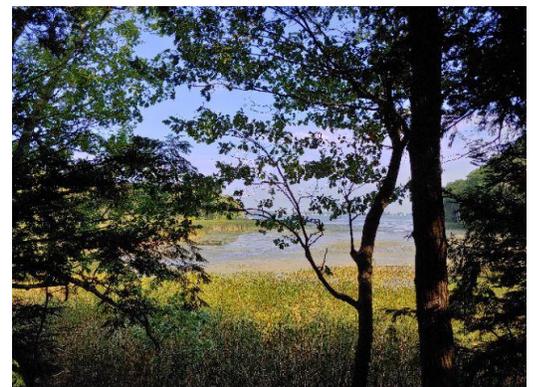
Bentley Bond's trail, which I visited with Trail Works one sunny Sunday morning in September, was named after a dog, and if you're going to memorialize a dog, I can think of few better ways. No dogs joined us on our hike, though there were a few of the animals listed above, as well as evidence of horses and probably bats sleeping in the bat house we passed. It's a fairly short (0.75 miles), simple out-and-back trail through woods, with a waterfall at the beginning, Sodus Bay at the end, and Second Creek winding alongside it. I don't think I need to go into all of the benefits of being in nature,

leaving behind creature comforts in favor of the company of creatures, but just to list a few: activity, fresh air, and sunlight.

A few other trails fall into the overlapping section of the Genesee Land Trust/Trail Works Venn diagram, and each of them has its charms. See if you can spot the Native American Medicine Wheel, just off the beaten path, at the Crowfield Sanctuary in Newark, or the ceramic plant identifiers along the trail of the Kraai Preserve. If you make your way up to Macyville Woods Nature Preserve, just across the bay from Chimney Bluffs State Park, do please check on the baby trees my fellow Trail Keepers and I planted there in April. And by all means, enjoy the view from the bridge we recently built at Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve in Macedon, or our shoulders will have suffered for nothing. If all of this activity makes you hungry, there are some newly assembled picnic tables at the Cornwall Preserve in Williamson (you will have to supply your own food). And once you've done all that, consider venturing out of Wayne County; we've got plenty to see here in Monroe. Wherever you roam, though, I recommend wearing hiking boots.



Seeking out all of these oases was the best New Year's resolution I ever made in March, and while anyone can visit them on their own, it's always interesting to have guides to share a little of the history and/or biology of the trails. On my visit to Bentley Bond's Trail, I received a little book of Wayne County trails, and considering I'm almost out of Genesee Land Trust trails, the timing couldn't be better. More than visiting them, though, it has been very rewarding to do what I can to help maintain them. Not every tree I helped plant at Macyville will survive, but those that do will likely be there long after I'm gone. I don't know that there could be a closer tie to nature than that, but I plan to keep looking, one trail at a time. (Alasa Farms is a Genesee Land Trust conservation easement property.)



Thank You, Corporate Members of Trail Works!

We'd like to extend our thanks to our corporate members for 2025:

Books, ETC - Macedon

Cornell Cooperative Extension - Newark

Phelps Cement – Phelps

Reliant Community Credit Union – Sodus Branch

Wegmans Community Relations – Rochester

We are grateful to proprietor, John Cieslinski, at **Books, ETC**, in Macedon NY for providing us with space in their place of business to host outreach tables. John has always been most welcoming to have us visit his book store and hold fundraising events. Stop in sometime and say hi to John and his cats!



We are grateful to **CCE Wayne** who provides us with a number of opportunities to partner for trail related projects.

The most recent was grant funding to help with new signage for the Lauraville Landing trail in Clyde. They also continue to collect completed Passport booklets for our yearly Passport drawing. There are many other ways in which we work with CCE-Wayne to benefit the people and trails of Wayne County...too many to list here!

We are grateful to all our friends at **Phelps Cement Products** in Ontario County for donating many of their products over the years to literally help us build and maintain trails in Wayne County. This has mostly come in the form of pavers and stone dust.



We are grateful to **Reliant Community Credit Union** who hold our accounts, and provide us with countless paper copies of maps, brochures, and our colorful newsletters. Without this community service, we would be headed to Staples endlessly!

Wegmans Community Relations staff get special thanks for promoting and supporting the popular *Hit the Trail Passport* Wellness Program for communities like ours who have trails within them. This means they provide Trail Works with the rubbing faceplates for our passport posts, and help us with input and printing of hard copies of our 70-plus page Passport booklet! They also donate a \$250 gift card every year for our annual Passport drawing. Last but certainly not least, Wegmans helped us develop and still funds our increasingly famous *Hit the Trail Wayne County* smartphone App! We are the ONLY Passport program community that Wegmans partners with for an App, and we are deeply grateful to them for their help and funding.



Trail News & Notes

Alasa Farms Bently Bond's Red Trail

A few improvements on this lovely trail! A couple of new benches have been replaced compliments of the Farm's trail committee and its volunteers!

Member Tim Wilbur also repositioned a plaque from a past boy scout project next to the new bench at the water fall. Thanks Tim!



Beechwood State Park

If you've been to Beechwood recently, you'll have seen the new addition out front of the west entrance. Meet "Nightmare," (**on the front cover**) once part of the Rochester area *Horses on Parade* promotion. If he looks familiar, that's because he used to stand out front of the old Heluva Good Cheese Store on Barclay Rd in Sodus (now Saltbox Smokehouse).

Thank you, Sal Vittozzi, for the history on Nightmare!

Chimney Bluffs Trail Improvements

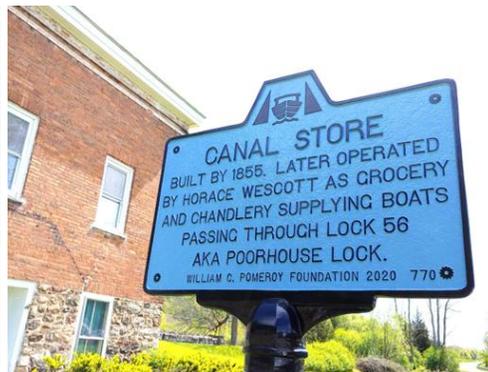
The Bluffs Trail at Chimney Bluffs State Park has had a number of short boardwalks added over the last months, making the trail more resilient in wet weather. Several of these boardwalks require a step up or down – not optimal for cross-country skiers – but should reduce mud considerably in wet weather, and they also reduce the tripping hazards from a number of tree roots. (Thank you, Nancy Gift @ CCE-Wayne, for submitting this info.) We have also replaced the rubbing plate at the Passport post. Thank you Gary Abbott for doing this.



Enlarged E56 trail (Lyons)

The overgrowth and brush have been cleared out around the Passport post. Thank you to Tim Wilbur for doing this for us.

Across from the old lock, you will see a red brick building that was once referred to as the "Poor House Grocery." This building served the needs of people, canal boaters and their animals in the mid-19th century. The red brick canal store is one of few structures remaining today. After the building was abandoned for the opening of the new Barge Canal in 1817, it was converted to a private residence. Trail Works is working to get historic recognition for this lock and property. There is a Pomeroy Historical Marker in front of the private residents once known as the "Poorhouse Grocery."



Huckleberry Swamp

Several of the boardwalk boards that were “curved up” have been replaced, thus reducing a tripping hazard. Remember that Huckleberry Swamp does not allow dogs on the property, and is closed on Mondays to allow the owners to perform maintenance. It also closes at the first sign of snow or icing on the boardwalk. Get there soon before it closes for the winter (usually in November).



Lockville Trail (Newark)

A new Passport post and rubbing plate have been reinstalled at this location by members Glenn Wallis and Tim Wilbur. We’re aware of the overgrown situation at this trail, and will be working with some Newark volunteers to clean it up in the future. Maybe you have noticed that a new Microtel hotel has gone in to the east of this trail. Hopefully we can get the hotel staff to send some folks over to enjoy the trail!

Montezuma Audubon Center

Many have contacted us about the missing observation deck at the MAC, and asking “where is the passport post?” The deck was deteriorating and taken down for safety reasons, and the rubbing plate went with it. We’re not sure when or where it will be reinstalled. We had heard that they were supposed to rebuild a new 2-story deck in 2025 but that has not happened. We have obtained a new rubbing plate from Wegmans and hopefully will work with MAC to place a new passport post along the trail.

In the meantime, if you visit there with your Passport booklet, just make note of the date you visited on the MAC page, and we will honor that instead of a faceplate rubbing.



Trail of Hope (Lyons)

We are working with Wayne County Public Health for possible grant funding for the accessible community garden at the Trail of Hope in Lyons. We are applying for this grant from the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) program.

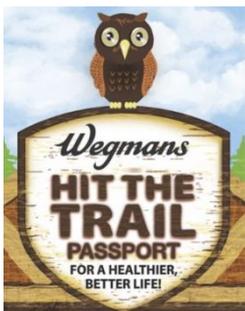
We are looking at having this trail paved with recycled asphalt “millings” to prevent weeds from growing back on the trail. This will allow for easier passage of wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, and the like.



Hunting Seasons Are Open

Don't forget that fall brings out the hunters in the area. Don't forget to see and be seen...wear your bright orange, and don't forget orange for your dogs out on the trail, too! Check the DEC link here for dates of hunting seasons in New York State throughout the fall and winter. <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/htgsummarypullout.pdf>.

See additional article recently published by ADK at this link: <https://adk.org/safe-recreation-during-hunting-season/>



Passport Trails Canvass Started

We have started the long process of going to each Passport trail and collecting data to update our next Passport booklet. The next printing will be divided into two (2) booklets to accommodate the new trails we will include. The booklets will be divided into northern Wayne County (along the lakeshore and Rt. 104), and southern Wayne County (along the Erie Canal and Rt. 31). This will enable us to include more trails after the closing of the Dolomite Trail in Walworth.

Board Member Tom Kolankiewicz Gives Red Trail Pump House a Facelift

The old pumphouse at the south end of the Alasa Farms Bentley Bond's Red Trail has received a summer facelift!

This old pumphouse used to bring water up to the Farm from Second Creek, where old mills had been built back in the early 1800s.

Over the years, it has been plagued with graffiti. Tom Kolankiewicz spent hours this past summer in the hot sun and buggy woods preparing the pumphouse for repainting.

After removing some of the old electrical boxes and other things on the walls, Tom prepped it with primer, and then repainted it completely, thus eliminating the graffiti that had accumulated over the years and became quite an eyesore. It looks great...thank you, Tom!



Past Tracks

Music Tuesday in the Park, July 1

This weekly, summer Sodus Point event sponsored by the Neighborhood Association of Sodus Point (NASP) starts on Tuesdays early in July and runs through mid-August. Held at Oscar Fuerst Field, each week is a different theme. Members Tim & Nancey Wilbur hosted a Trail Works table for us at the first Sodus Point Music Tuesday in the Park summer event. Although the crowd was slim, the music was enjoyed by all. Thank you, Nancey & Tim!



Macyville Woods Nature Preserve Shoreline Hike July 13



A small but enthused group of Trail Works members (and one good dog) gathered for a hike through Sodus Point's Macyville Woods Nature Preserve (a Genesee Land Trust property). We saw some wonderful things, including a large fungus (a hen-of-the-woods is my guess) and evidence of beaver activity, although no beavers were spotted that day. Hike leader Tim Wilbur also installed the new Passport rubbing faceplate at Macyville, making it officially one of our newest passport trails!



Trail of Hope Cleanup July 15

Trail Works Board members met at the Trail of Hope in Lyons on a hot night for a trail clean-up in place of our regular July board meeting. This got the gardens in ship-shape for the rest of the summer and for those wanting local garden tours.



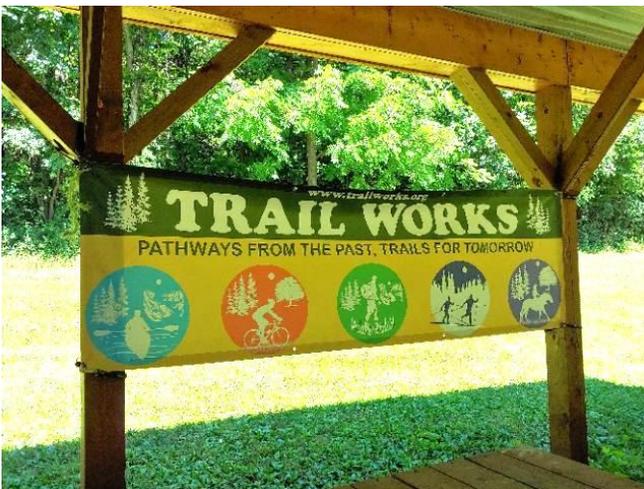
4H Camp Beechwood Presentation and Hikes July 16

Board members Nancy and Tom attended 4H Camp Beechwood again this year. While Nancy gave the Trail Works presentations to 60-plus campers and staff (Passport program, how to pack a backpack, Leave No Trace, and trail etiquette), Tom took two groups of campers on hikes out to the bluff to get their rubbing at the Passport post. The campers are always well behaved and enthused to see us each year. The annual week-long 4H day camp is a program of CCE-Wayne in Newark.



Fresh Air Friday at Blue Cut Nature Center July 18

Trail Works was invited to participate in a series of outdoor, health-themed events at local parks on Fridays in July and August. These events were promoted by Wayne County Public Health. Member Nancy attended the first event at Blue Cut Nature Center in Lyons. Although the crowd was slim, we made a WCPH contact that we will be working with for a grant for Trail of Hope in Lyons. These events pay off in different ways!



Sodus Farmer's Market August 6

Member Mark represented Trail Works at the Sodus Farmer's Market again for us this year. He was also their musical guest, playing familiar tunes for the market goers and making new friends...priceless!

Thank you, Mark!



Chimney Bluffs State Park Shoreline Hike August 10

Four folks made up the group for this summer shoreline hike, braving the “stairway to heaven” at the East Bay entrance. Hike leader Tim Wilbur reported that several new boardwalks and/or small bridge type platforms have been installed or replaced in recent months on the Bluff Trail.

These will be welcome by hikers come wet weather, winter and spring “mud” season.

Annual Picnic Meeting August 12

Board member Tom opened his lake front property for us to enjoy during our annual picnic meeting. There were plenty of hots, hamburgers and salads to go around, as well as yummy desserts. We had a wonderful summer meeting while waiting for the sun to set. You cannot beat Lake Ontario sunsets! Thank you, Tom, for hosting us this year.



Huron Day, September 20

A bright sunny day greeted us in the Town of Huron for this year’s Huron Day, 2025. Members Gil, Holly, and Nancy staffed the Trail Works table spreading the good word. Inside the historic buildings on the property, Huron Town historian Rosa Fox put together a wonderful day of presentations on genealogy, grave restoration, and telling Huron stories. More important connections were made at this event for Trail Works!

Alasa Farms Joint Hike and Farm Tour, September 27

A group of 20-plus hikers joined leader Tom K. for another wonderful day at Cracker Box Palace at Historic Alasa Farms. The 4-mile hike took hikers through the fields and woods of this special place. The last leg of the hike on the picturesque “red trail,” including views of Sodus Bay and a waterfall. After the hike, participants enjoyed a farm tour with Cracker Box and Trail Works Board member Barb DeRoo, visiting with the rescued animal residents, and indulging them in various approved treats. After the hike, folks were able to make a stop at a local winery.

Thank you,
Tom and Barb



Trail Works Inc.

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A photograph of a man in a grey long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans leading a dark brown horse by a rope. They are on a grassy bank next to a river. In the background, a white boat with a red and green stripe is on the water, with several people on board. The trees have autumn foliage.

Trail Works Event Calendar November – January, 2026

Date	Event
Nov 15	Joint Hike, Cornwall Preserve, 12:00 noon
Nov 18	Monthly Meeting, Park Presbyterian Church, 7:00 pm
Nov 28	#OptOutside hike, Richmond Aqueduct Trail, 10:00 am
Dec 16	Monthly Meeting, Park Presbyterian Church, 7:00 pm
Jan 1	First Day Hike, TBD
Jan 20	Monthly Meeting, Park Presbyterian Church, 7:00 pm