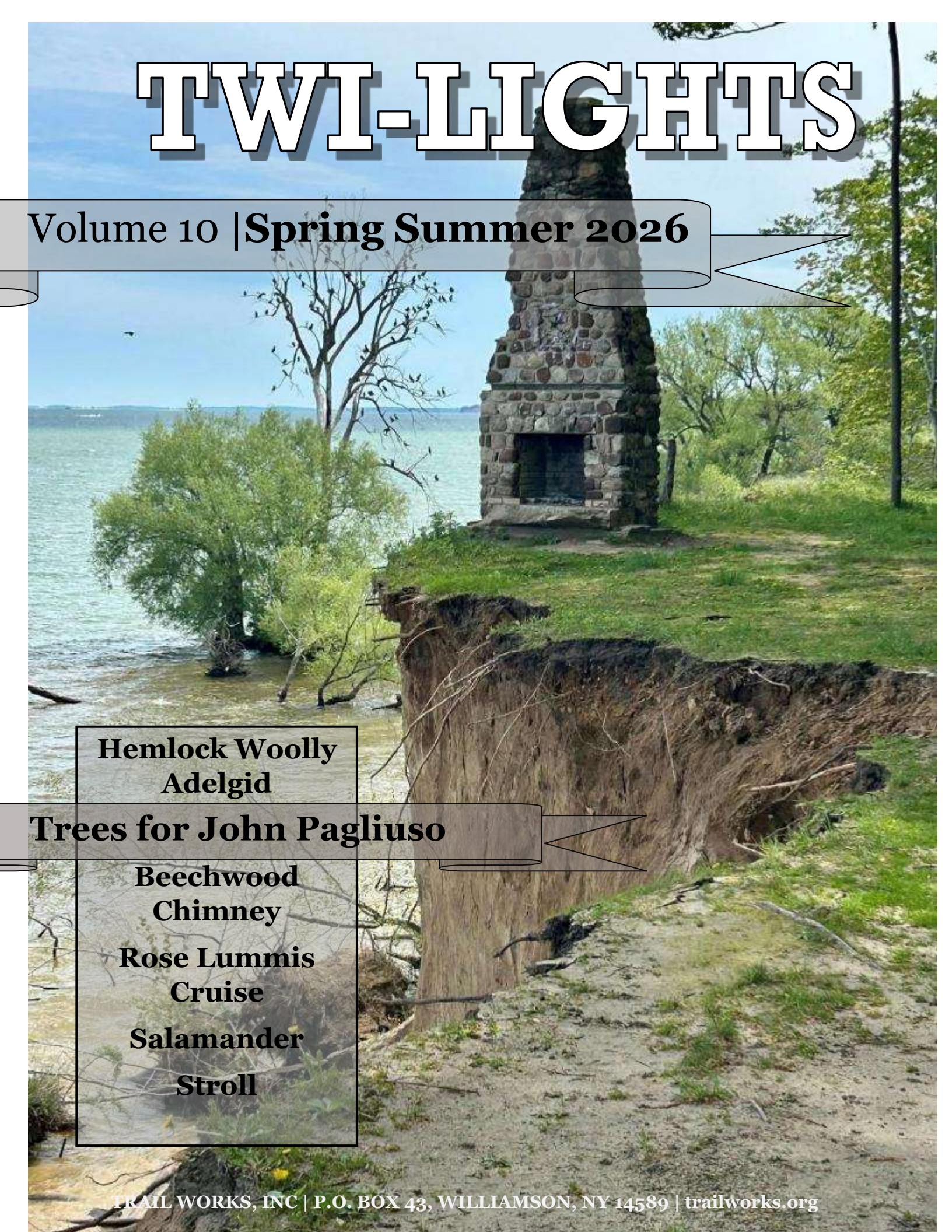


TWI-LIGHTS



Volume 10 | **Spring Summer 2026**

**Hemlock Woolly
Adelgid**

Trees for John Pagliuso

**Beechwood
Chimney**

**Rose Lummis
Cruise**

**Salamander
Stroll**

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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>

Cover photos: Front page: Werner Lutz & Back Cover: Mark DeCracker

MEET THE TWI BOARD

President: Barb DeRoo

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Rich Ross-Assistant

Members at Large

Gary Abbott

Gil Burgess

Mark DeCracker

Tom Kolankiewicz

Mike Shippers

Glenn Wallis



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

From the Editor:

We're finding that 2026 is bringing some changes for Trail Works resources. This past March, Wegmans informed us that it would no longer provide financial support for the ***Hit the Trail Wayne County*** *smartphone app* after June 30, 2026, due to lower-than-expected usage. As a nonprofit organization, Trail Works is unable to independently fund the app moving forward.



Our work over the past two months with Wayne County Tourism in Lyons and the app developer, STQRY, has been to explore options for continuing the app, with Wayne County Tourism as the lead agency. During this process, the current app updated on June 30 for the interim, until Tourism's final strategic plan is finalized with Wayne County. Fortunately, Wegmans has committed to continuing the printing of our paper Passport booklets. We look forward to sharing future updates as they become available.

Congratulations to Sal Vittozzi, former Trail Works Board member and manager of Beechwood State Park, for completing the Middle Finger 5K in May! Sal was the second-highest fundraiser in this race/walk event, raising an impressive \$1,101 for *Thrive to Survive*, a local organization that supports adults living with cancer throughout the Finger Lakes region. Having received support from *Thrive to Survive* during his own cancer journey, Sal was inspired to give back and help others



facing similar challenges. His dedication and generosity are truly inspiring.

Sal, you're the best! We're so happy to see you thriving and celebrating your victory over cancer!

Nancy Snyder, editor

Trail Works T-shirts Available

Trail Works has t-shirts available for \$10. We have a variety of sizes...Small, Med, Large, XL, and XXL. The biggest variety of sizes are in the teal color. Very few in the maroon and green are left. If you are interested, please email us with your size at trailworks@trailworks.org, and we can work out the details about payment and delivery.



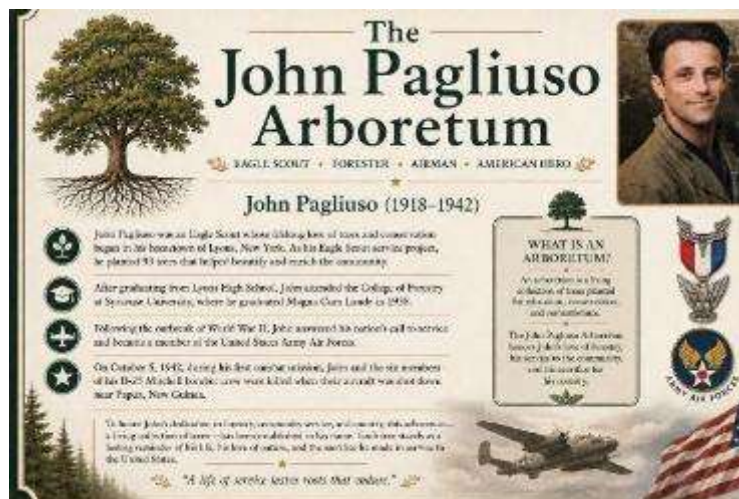
Trees for John Pagliuso

By Olivia Drahms

In early May 2026, I was selected as the winner of the DAR History Award for Clyde-Savannah High School. At the awards ceremony, I was asked if I was willing to collaborate with Mark DeCracker on a tree planting project to honor World War II veteran John Pagliuso. I immediately accepted this opportunity because I saw this project as a chance to help my local communities in a sustainable and long-lasting way that reflects my values as an environmentalist.

Mark and I got in touch, and I was given the first set of trees on Memorial Day. Together, Mark and I have planted over one hundred trees across Wayne County, had a special planting ceremony of two Red Oaks in Clyde, and celebrated the planting of the White Pine in Lyons.

Along the way, I learned that John Pagliuso had attended the college that is now the SUNY Environmental School of Forestry, the same of which that I will attend in the fall to study Landscape Architecture. This project as a whole feels incredibly full circle, and I am beyond grateful to work alongside Mark. This experience has helped me learn so much more about local vegetation, local history, and has allowed me to make a positive impact on my community. Over the summer, we plan to start the first Arboretum in Wayne County at the Trail of Hope in Lyons while continuing to plant trees.



Learning to Spot Hemlock Woolly Adelgid at Alasa Farms

By Aaron Netsky

Nobody said there'd be homework when I got involved with the Genesee Land Trust. I guess they're not the ones who set the assignment ahead of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Workshop, so I can't blame them. They were one of three hosts of the event, the other two being the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County and the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), and it was the latter of those that assigned the homework, which consisted of downloading the Survey123 app to my phone, watching two instructional videos, and some reading. Being a more dutiful student than I was back when I was a student, I did my homework at not quite the last possible moment.

(Continued on next page)

Learning to Spot Hemlock Woolly Adelgid at Alasa Farms-Cont'd

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) has been in the United States since the 1920s. It is an aphid-like insect that disrupts nutrient flow in hemlocks by sucking out moisture. An infestation can kill a hemlock in four to ten years. They are barely visible to the naked eye, so the best way to tell if a tree is infested is to look for the woolly white masses that HWA create to protect themselves and their eggs during the winter. Despite their size, they pose a tremendous threat to the hemlock population and, by extension, ecosystems that depend on it. One way to



determine how much damage has already been done to an infested tree is by checking how bare the higher branches are.

It was cold and a little rainy when we gathered in front of the Horse Barn at Alasa Farms in Alton, New York, one of the Genesee Land Trust's conservation easements. The workshop leaders handed around samples of hemlock bark and branches to help us learn to identify them. The needles of a hemlock are flat and green on top with two white stripes on the underside. The bark is dark brown. We were each given a length of rope, sixty-three inches in total with a mark at sixteen, which was to help us determine the circumference of a trunk: sixteen inches or fewer is small, sixty-three or more is large, in between is medium. Measuring bigger trees basically means giving them a hug, and if you hug a tree that turns out to be infested by HWA, it is recommended that you either wash the clothes that made contact or brush them with a lint brush. HWA won't hurt the clothes, but you don't want your coat to be a carrier.

The hike to the hemlock stand near Third Creek (hemlocks are often found near creeks, where they cool the water and stabilize the soil, among their many important contributions to the ecosystem) took about a half hour, and you never knew just how deep your boot was going to go with each step on the snowy trail. No one was injured, but socks got wet. When we arrived, we all pulled out our phones and opened the Survey123 app. The leaders walked us through the process of first identifying the tree (I volunteered to hug it; it was large) and then looking for the woolly masses at the base of the needles. We then practiced reporting our findings via the app (PRISM wants healthy trees reported, too). When we were sent to practice on our own, a fellow attendee and I found what we described in the app as a "strong young tree." It was fewer than sixteen inches around and had the woolly masses.

HWA are not as common in our region as in other areas of New York State, like the Hudson Valley and the Adirondacks, and the point of this data collection is to keep it that way. Once you have identified an infested tree, contact PRISM (using the survey app will do this) or the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to let them know. The best time to look for evidence of HWA is winter (this workshop was February 20th), and the best time to apply pesticides is spring or fall. Participating in the survey is a way that anyone can help prevent the spread of invasive species. More information is available at the Finger Lakes PRISM website.

“The Spirit of the Chimney Will Go On at Beechwood”

If you've visited Beechwood State Park over the past decade, you've likely noticed the dramatic erosion taking place along the bluff overlooking the lake. In 2024, we did a series of newsletter articles on Beechwood, with one specifically addressing this erosion. The shoreline bluff is eroding at an alarming rate, putting anything nearby at risk of eventually collapsing over the edge. Over the years, other structures from the former Girl Scout camp have succumbed to erosion, and now rest on the lake bottom. On some days, you can still see pieces of concrete protruding from the water.

One of the most notable features near the bluff was a building in the camp's former "Pixie" area that contained an old stone chimney. Several years ago, caretaker Sal Vittozzi dismantled the building because it was only a matter of time before erosion took it down. Vandalism also contributed to the decision to remove the structure. The chimney, however, was left standing for visitors to use and enjoy.



We can now report that the chimney has collapsed over the bluff edge in April. The cobblestones have been resting at the lake's edge, and Sal, with the help of friends and campers, has retrieved



them for repurpose around the camp in several new campfire pits.

To quote Sal directly, “The spirit of the chimney will go on at Beechwood.”

As of this writing, the John Faulks memorial sunset pavilion and a memorial bench dedicated to our past president, Bethany Comella, have been moved back further on the bluff.



Salamander Stroll



Salamander Saturday is held annually on the first Saturday of May to raise awareness for the conservation of salamanders and their habits. In 2026, Salamander Saturday was held on May 2, 2026. The event is organized by the Foundation for the Conservation of Salamanders, featuring educational events, strolls, and virtual activities.

Trail Works member and Wayne County Historian Jane Milem went on a salamander stroll with “Adventures with Alyssa Rose,” which offers family friendly hikes and outdoor activities to allow children to explore, inquire, observe, and play.

For the Turtle Trek, Jane was on the Palmyra Aqueduct Canalway Trail, and the Palmyra Wetland Nature Trail. The salamander stroll was on the Macedon Bullis Park Eagle Scout trail.



****Salamander Stroll information and photos submitted by Jane Milem**

Passport Booklet News

Trails Canvass

We are almost done canvassing our trail system to start the revisions on the next reprinting of our Wayne County *Hit the Trail* Passport booklet. Some trails will be removed and some added. This is a huge task, and the bulk of the project still lies ahead. We are probably looking at some time in 2027 for the next reprinting. In the meantime, the most current version dated May 2025 is available at Newark and Holt Rd. Wegmans.

Another Happy Smiling Face!

Another completed Passport booklet was dropped off at our partners at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Newark. Riley R. and her dog Kiara are pictured here, and their coupons were entered in this year's annual Passport drawing for a \$250 Wegmans gift card on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 6. This should be incentive to get out there on the trails and complete your passport booklet this season in time for next year's drawing!



And the Winner Is...

The winner of our annual Passport drawing for the Wegmans \$250 gift card is Jackie M. of Pittsford! Jackie completed our 30-trail system during Covid, and her name was drawn on National Trails Day before our trail cleanup on the Williamson Town Loop trail. We are also happy to report that Jackie joined us this summer as a new Trail Works member! Congratulations, Jackie!

Sodus Bay Cruise on the Rose Lummis

On Sunday, June 28th, after a weather-related cancellation, we finally got a gorgeous day for our cruise on Great Sodus Bay! We had 31 guests join us for the hour and a half cruise with Sodus Bay area history narrated by Don Riling, president of the Save Our Sodus organization, owners of the restored Rose Lummis cruise boat. We were happy to see several faces of Trail Works members we haven't seen in years, and glad so many joined us for the cruise.

Our thanks to the crew of the Rose Lummis that day, Don Riling, Captain Ken and crew member Amber. Special shout out to SOS Board member Nan McCoy who guided us through the process of signing members up and for rescheduling our cruise to a better weather day!



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Wayne County Public Health and NYS DEC offered us signs to warn hikers that wild animals can carry diseases and can make you sick. You may spot these signs at some of our promoted trails, and at Wayne County Parks and properties. Common sense information, but a good reminder.



Tim Wilbur relocated the Wegmans *Hit the Trail* Passport post at Alasa Farms from the campground area south of the horse barn to the north end of the scenic Bently Bond's Red Trail at Thornton Point

We have seen this trail gain in popularity over the past several years, so it made sense to move it to this location with the agreement of the Farm's trails committee. Look for it at the Sodus Bay Lookout. Thanks Tim!



Mark DeCracker installed a new sign along the Black Brook trail this past February at Lock Berlin.

Thank you, Mark!



Trail Works had a new historical sign made for the “Forever Wild for Everyone” Butterfly Nature Trail in Macedon. Tim Wilbur mounted the new sign on a backboard, and has put on a number of coats of preservative on the sign and backboard so they better withstand the weather. Thanks, Tim!



Spring always brings the opening of Huckleberry Swamp in North Rose, a privately owned trail managed by the Olga Fleisher Ornithological Foundation. If you like to hear the frogs and go birding, this is the place for you! The extensive boardwalks make viewing a breeze.

Reminders: Closed on Mondays and no dogs are allowed on this trail. Seasonal porta-potty is available. Don't forget the bug spray!

Tim Willbur has spent significant time on this trail and at the Palmyra Aqueduct Park identifying work that needed to be done. He worked with the Village of

Palmyra and NYS Canal Corp to determine who was responsible to get the work completed.

We can now report that the dead trees along the north side are off the trail. The observation deck on the south side of the trail is still not repaired.



Trail News & Notes

Sanctuary at Crowfield Farm Closed to Public

This property is privately owned and has had a long-time relationship with Genesee Land Trust. The owners have opened their trails to our membership for many years but current maintenance issues have been problematic. Therefore, at the request of the owner, we have removed this trail from our website listing, and will remove them from our next Passport printing.

Our thanks to owner, Steve Aman, for sharing his wonderful property with Trail Works members in the past.



Clyde Welcome Center and New Hydration Station

The Village of Clyde has a new welcome center and hydration station! Located on Glasgow Street, this center is right along the Empire State Trail. It provides bikers, hikers, boaters and campers with local information, maps, guides, and WIFI which makes it a great place to stop, rest, and explore the Wayne County attractions, the Erie Canal, and the Empire State Trail. You can also find the Trail Works *Hit the Trail* Passport Booklet there!

The hydration station is located in Clyde's Village Park. The idea of a village resident, this was a final gift from SOAR, a resident-driven grant which worked alongside the people of Clyde, Galen, and Savannah for 11 years before its completion at the end of 2024.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County administered the SOAR grant which was funded by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation. This new station will serve not only local residents and pets, but the multitude of visitors that come through Clyde each year boating, hiking, or cycling the Erie Canal.

Stop by the Clyde Welcome Center and take a selfie with the recently installed Clyde sign, which was purchased using remaining funds from the SOAR grant. It is purposely missing the "Y" so that you can be the "Y in Clyde."

Thank you, Amy Reed Bullard at CCE-Wayne, for providing us with this information.



Past Tracks

February 13-17 Great Backyard Bird Count

Our winner for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's **Great Backyard Bird Count** was Don Winslow. Don recorded nine bird species within a 15-minute timeframe in Marion to win the prizes this year; a large bag of bird seed and a ranch bird feeder from Country Max.

Congratulations, Don!



February 17 Ski Jig Demo

Prior to our February Board meeting, member Ed Sawester gave us a demonstration on our newly acquired ski jig. A ski jig is a specialized tool used to mount ski bindings to ensure proper boot alignment. Members brought their skis for Ed to look at and make some suggestions. Prior to winter, if you have questions about your ski bindings, contact us and we'll put you in touch with Ed. He loves to share his experience.

Thanks, Ed!



March 7 Shadow Hill Maple Fest

Several Trail Works members joined us for a pancake lunch at The Lodge at Shadow Hill in Ontario NY. After a nice lunch, we walked the trail to their sugar bush and enjoyed their lovely grounds. We finished the afternoon with a trip to their maple store!



Past Tracks

April 18 Canal Clean Sweep

We went back again this year to the old spillway of Clinton's Ditch and Lock 65 between Lyons and Clyde to continue the brush removal from the spillway. Our hope is to get permissions to put in a bridge in that area to make it a more accessible and desirable area.

Thank you to Gil Burgess for hosting the event again this year and to all the volunteers.



May 9 Leave No Trace Short Course Beechwood State Park

A small but enthused group joined us for a short two-hour course on ***Seven Principles of Leave No Trace*** that all who enjoy the outdoors should be familiar with. Trainer Rich Ross from the ADK Mountain Club Black River Chapter was our host and shared his many years of expertise. We learned everything from planning and preparing to the impact of campfires using interactive discussions and real-world examples. Thanks, Rich!



May 16 Bike Tune-up Clinic Lyons

Ed Sawester hosted our bike tune-up clinic this year at Abby Park in Lyons. After some initial bike maintenance focused training and a tire change out, participants followed Ed east along the Erie Canal Trail to Clyde and back.

Thanks, Ed!



May 17 Cornwall Preserve Joint Hike with GVHC

Several members from both Trail Works and the Genesee Valley Hiking Club enjoyed our first summer shoreline hike of the season with Tom on a 4.5-mile trek through the Hance Orchard, Lakeview Cemetery, and Cornwall Preserve before relaxing at the Boom Point Winery for a post hike gathering!



Member Tim Wilbur also showed the group how to use the ***Hit the Trail*** Passport booklet to get a rubbing from the Passport post in the Cornwall woods.

Thanks, Tom and Tim!



Note: Cornwall Preserve is a Genesee Land Trust Property

Past Tracks

May 21 Day of Caring at Alasa Farms and Trail of Hope

Cracker Box Palace at Historic Alasa Farms had about 100 volunteers participate in the United Way's Day of Caring on Thursday, May 21. Various jobs ranged from gardening, building repair, painting, and of course, trail building and cleanup! Trail Works members Barb DeRoo, Tom Kolankiewicz, Nancy Snyder, Kathryn Conant, Tim VandenBerg and Scott Blondell participated in leading work groups and other miscellaneous tasks throughout the day.



Meanwhile at the **Trail of Hope** in Lyons, Mark DeCracker also had a group for the Day of Caring event.

Gardens were tilled, trails cleaned up, teepee erected, yellow brick road cleaned up and edged.

Mark and many volunteers are now planting thousands of young plants and flowers necessary to adorn this splendid "Forever Wild for Everyone" trail within the Trail Works system.

Make it a point to visit these wonderful places this year!

June 6 National Trails Day Cleanup at Williamson Town Loop Trail

Instead of a hike this year for the American Society's *National Trails Day*, we organized a cleanup on the Williamson Town Loop Trail in the Peck's woods section. Several members and non-members helped us out as we removed several large downed ash trees. A general cutting back of the trail also took place. With so many hands, we were done in just over an hour, and went on to a local ice cream establishment to celebrate our accomplishment!

Thank you to all who joined us to help out on NTD!



Past Tracks

June 13 ADK Outdoor Expo

Trail Works members always enjoy attending this large, outdoor extravaganza sponsored by the ADK Genesee Valley Chapter from Rochester. Held at Mendon Ponds Park, it draws hundreds of visitors from across the region interested in all things “outdoors.” Members Nancy Snyder, Tim Wilbur and Mike Shippers helped out at the Trail Works table answering the many questions about the trails of Wayne County. There is a lot of interest in Wayne County, and folks are grateful for different places and trails to visit outside of the Rochester area and along the lakeshore.

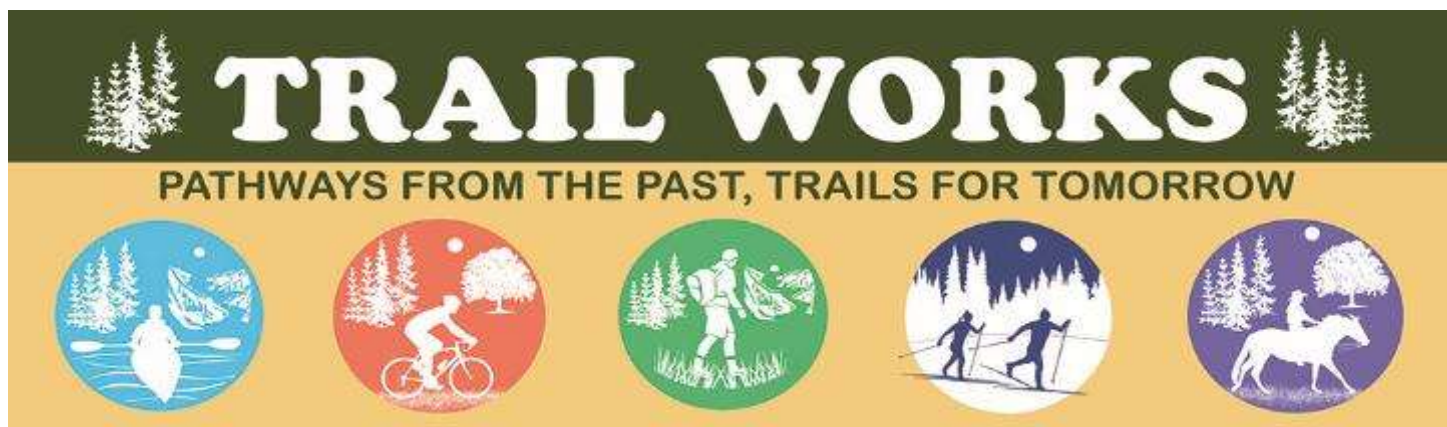


June 20 Beechwood State Park Joint Hike with GVHC

About 26 joined the group for our second summer shoreline hike through Beechwood State Park with members Tom Kolankiewicz at the lead and Tim Wilbur as the sweep. Caretaker Sal Vittozzi came out before the hike started for a brief update of the park. The group covered the far west side before venturing over to the trails in the main part of the park. A good look at the lake bluff and east side of the park were included before the group ventured over to a local winery for an additional, optional gathering.

Thanks Tom & Tim!





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

Trail Works Membership Form

Check Type of Membership:

☐	Individual	\$15
☐	Family	\$25
☐	Corporate	\$50
☐	# of Family Members	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make Checks payable to Trail Works, Inc.

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



Trail Works Inc.
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Trail Works Event Calendar Summer 2026

Date	Event	Location	Time
21-Aug	Sunset Paddle	Chimney Bluffs-East Bay Road	6:30 PM
22-Aug	Whistlewood WMA	Dutch Street Rd- Wolcott	10:00 AM
12-Sep	Alasa Farms Red Trail	Red Mill Rd Trailhead- North Rose	10:00 AM
15-Sep	Monthly Meeting	TBD	7:00 PM
TBD	250th Celebration Hike	See WC Historical Society for event details	TBD