

## Lehigh Valley Trail—NEWS UPDATE

by Elaine Koral

On Saturday morning, October 28th, a group of hard working individuals gathered together for the Foundation's first official "work party" aimed at rehabilitating the old Lehigh Valley railroad bed into a linear park.

The cool morning temperatures provided ideal conditions for the folks diligently working on the trail. The air was filled with the sounds of chainsaws buzzing and weedwackers whirling. Bobcats, brushhogs and bulldozers tackled some of the more challenging areas. Young and old alike lent a hand by tackling the weeds, lugging dead tree branches out of the way and generally sprucing up the trail.

By the end of the morning a lot of progress had been made. The trail is now clear to a 30 foot width and is in good shape between Route 64 and Chamberlain Road.

The area located next to the Little League baseball field where the trail meets Route 251 in the Hamlet of Mendon is considerably wider than in other parts of the trail. Much effort was put into clearing this space so that it could be assessed for future use. It is proposed that the extra space be converted into a nicely landscaped parking area that could provide additional parking space for trail users as well as for Little League members who currently use the area.



Richard Joint, tackling the bush with his trusty tractor.

### • Mendon Foundation • Mission Statement

The Mendon Foundation is a non-profit corporation established to:

**PRESERVE**, protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational and structural resources in the Town of Mendon and directly adjacent properties,

**MAINTAIN** a responsible stewardship of assets and properties held or controlled by the corporation,

**ESTABLISH** and promote local environmental education on issues pertinent to the preservation of natural resources in the Town of Mendon,

**ESTABLISH** and promote programs to monitor the natural resources in the Town of Mendon.

As we succeed in these objectives, we enhance property values for all Mendon property owners. The Foundation is supported by membership fees, grants and other contributions. Donations to the Mendon Foundation are tax deductible.

Proceeds are used to cover easement acquisitions, monitoring and communications.  
All labor is volunteer.

The Foundation is actively seeking grants which will be necessary in order to complete the entire trail project. Ron Brand, owner of RLB Planning Group has donated his knowledge and expertise to the task of writing the proposal to obtain I.S.T.E.A. funds. A committee was formed that worked diligently through the summer to accumulate the information necessary for the proposal. The committee consists of Carl Foss, Jeanne Loberg, Dick Dehm, Dirk Tenhagen, George Baker, Karen Hopkins and Karla Boyce. Referring to the committee Brand said, "For a small, core group of people, they put out a lot of effort that made my job enjoyable." He added that the proposal is a very strong candidate for funding. The announcement of who will be getting the funds will not be made until 1996.

cont. on page 2.

# Wildlife Corridors: The Integrity of Natural Systems

by John R. Hauber

Competing pressures for space draw our attention in different directions. On a plate at a smorgasbord, in our vegetable or flower garden, with a planning board's look at a township, the choices and directions are many. Careful evaluation, planning and decision making allow progress that is beneficial and appreciated. Otherwise everything looks and tastes like pasta marinara with jello juice.

While attempting to accomplish the most good, we must realize our resources are finite and we must work within their restrictions. Aldo Leopold suggests that we are of the land not above it. This land ethic is an approach to be able to coexist with our natural resources. Most people enjoy our myriad of wildlife species but how many think of their daily existence?

To maintain the character of wildlife and our wildlife experiences, it must be understood that without the appropriate habitat-food, cover, water, space-the wildlife species either do not exist or become an undue burden on residential resources.

Sometimes wildlife needs are met for many species on one large expansive area. More often however, the resource requirements are satisfied by a series of smaller patches of habitat that are conveniently joined by hedgerows, streams, railroad embankments and other greenbelts of generally undeveloped land. These wildlife corridors form an integral part of the very survival of many wildlife species. They are the "hallways" connecting the "rooms" of wildlife activity: feeding, resting, mating, nesting, escaping, etc.

Domestic and commercial pressures for goods, services and facilities may severely impact the Wildlife Corridors. Obviously, the loss of one of those "rooms" creates a void for the functions accomplished there. Sometimes adjustments may be made by some or even most species such as alternate routing. Other times the loss is complete, no option is available and the species' individuals are lost.

Evidence of corridors is easy to find. Animal crossings of highways are not random occurrences. These movements, unless disturbed significantly are at or near the same location. Telltale trails, fur caught on a fence and sightings on the highway show the various travel routes. Hedgerows offer desired cover for many species' travels. Streams provide cover and water and thus are readily sought and used.

Whether one speaks very locally—*island pockets of habitat may allow rabbits to survive in the backyard most of the year—or more globally—migrating birds may nest in the Arctic but winter in South America—the need of connecting habitats is essential. Plowing down the garden eliminates this source of cover and food until the fall cover crop develops. The loss of the Montezuma Wetland Complex would be felt by many migrating songbirds, shorebirds and water fowl.*

From a township point of view, the crucial idea is to plan to maintain a system of corridors that allow wildlife interchange. Often existing conditions—*wetlands, streams, steep slopes, railroad rights-of-way, transmission lines—provide a solid base. Judicious project review by planning boards can allow the integrity of these to be maintained. Zoning, land trusts and other considerations can work to preserve, enhance and expand such resources.* ■

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carl Foss – *President*  
624-1634

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*Treasurer/Membership*  
624-2139

Dick Dehm  
*Trail Committee*  
624-4466

Mary Gerhard  
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Bill Fletcher  
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624-3277

Susan Katz  
*Public Relations*  
586-1933

Elaine Koral  
*Newsletter*  
624-9733

## Lehigh Valley Trail (cont.)

If the funds are granted for this project, the local entity (represented by the Mendon Foundation) must provide a minimum of 20% of the total cost of the entire project. The estimated cost of the project (excluding buildings) is approximately \$800,000. Each person who participated in the cleanup completed a form when they arrived indicating how many hours they were working and any equipment they were donating for the day. A value will be given to the labor and equipment donated and this amount will go towards the 20% needed from local contributions. Whenever work is done on the trail, the hours worked and equipment donated will be recorded then added to the 20% goal.

With everyone's help and continued community support, the trail development project will be accomplished. ■

# A Vision for the Trail in the Hamlet of Mendon

by Elaine Koral

The following two pages display a beautifully prepared architectural drawing designed by George Baker of George Baker Architects which was painted by Austin Davis. The picture illustrates the proposed plan for the development of the Lehigh Valley Linear Park between Routes 64 and 251 in the Hamlet of Mendon.

This section of the trail which is approximately 900 feet long runs behind and between the local businesses and homes located in the hamlet.

Highlights of the proposed plan include a pond, pavilion, water tower, paddlewheel and "warming" house. Gazebos will be located along the trail for the public to use. The main structure (or pavilion) located by the pond will be open on all four sides and could be used to stage various community activities. "The pavilion design is based on an old railroad station to help capture the feeling and ambiance of the former railroad", says George Baker. He adds that the small building adjacent to the pavilion is designed to look like a Mill House and will have potbelly stoves or fireplaces and restrooms. It will be a place where people can go to warm up after skating on the pond.

Another feature is the lighting. "Lighting is very important," states Baker, "Not only do we want to provide something that can be used twelve months of the year, we want to make it comfortable for people to use in the daytime or evening."

It is planned (but not shown in the picture) to have raised flower beds in and around the gazebos. Each bed could have a different theme and some beds could be changed seasonally.

Carl Foss, President of the Mendon Foundation, envisions ice skating on the pond in winter, bands playing during good weather and any number of community fundraisers and events occurring throughout the year.

"We would like to see this area of the trail provide expanded recreational opportunities and also enhance the economic vitality of the hamlet", says Foss. Town and hamlet residents will be invited to open meetings (yet to be scheduled) in order to give their input on how to make this section of the trail as beneficial to the community as possible.

It is an exciting plan for the trail. If it's put into place, it will enhance the hamlet's beauty and will serve as an attraction for people from all over to come and enjoy. ■

## Thank You

Thank you to the following individuals for coming to our "Trail Work Party". Together we accomplished a lot! Also, thank you to all of you that completed your forms. The forms help us to obtain grant money which is vitally important.

If you were at the trail cleanup on Saturday and did not fill out a form, please call Elaine Koral at 624-9733 so that the hours you worked can be noted. Each hour that we can record brings the Foundation that much closer to getting those grants!

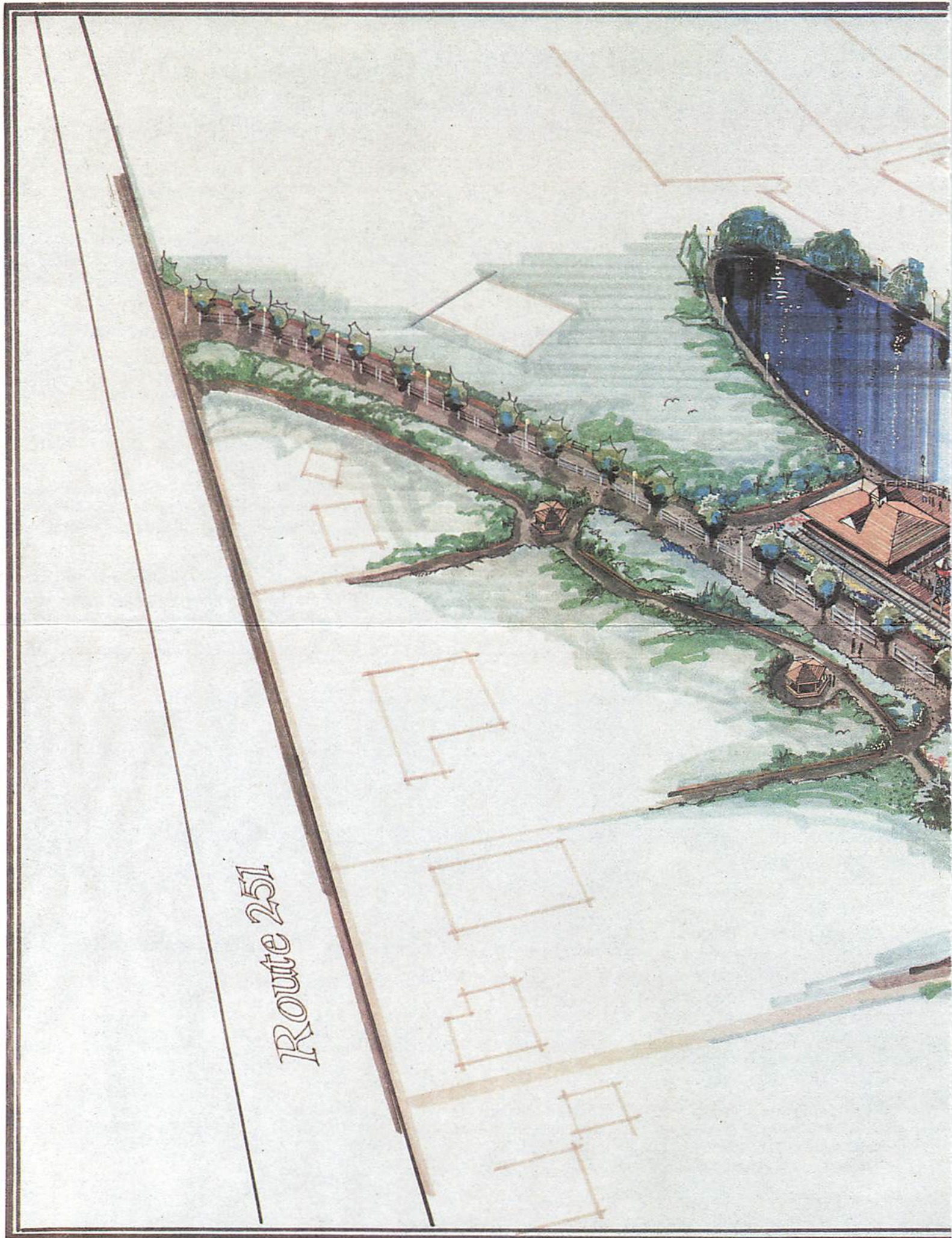
*Thank you to John Spinelli for supplying all the photographs in this issue.*



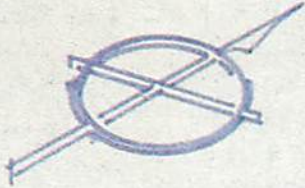
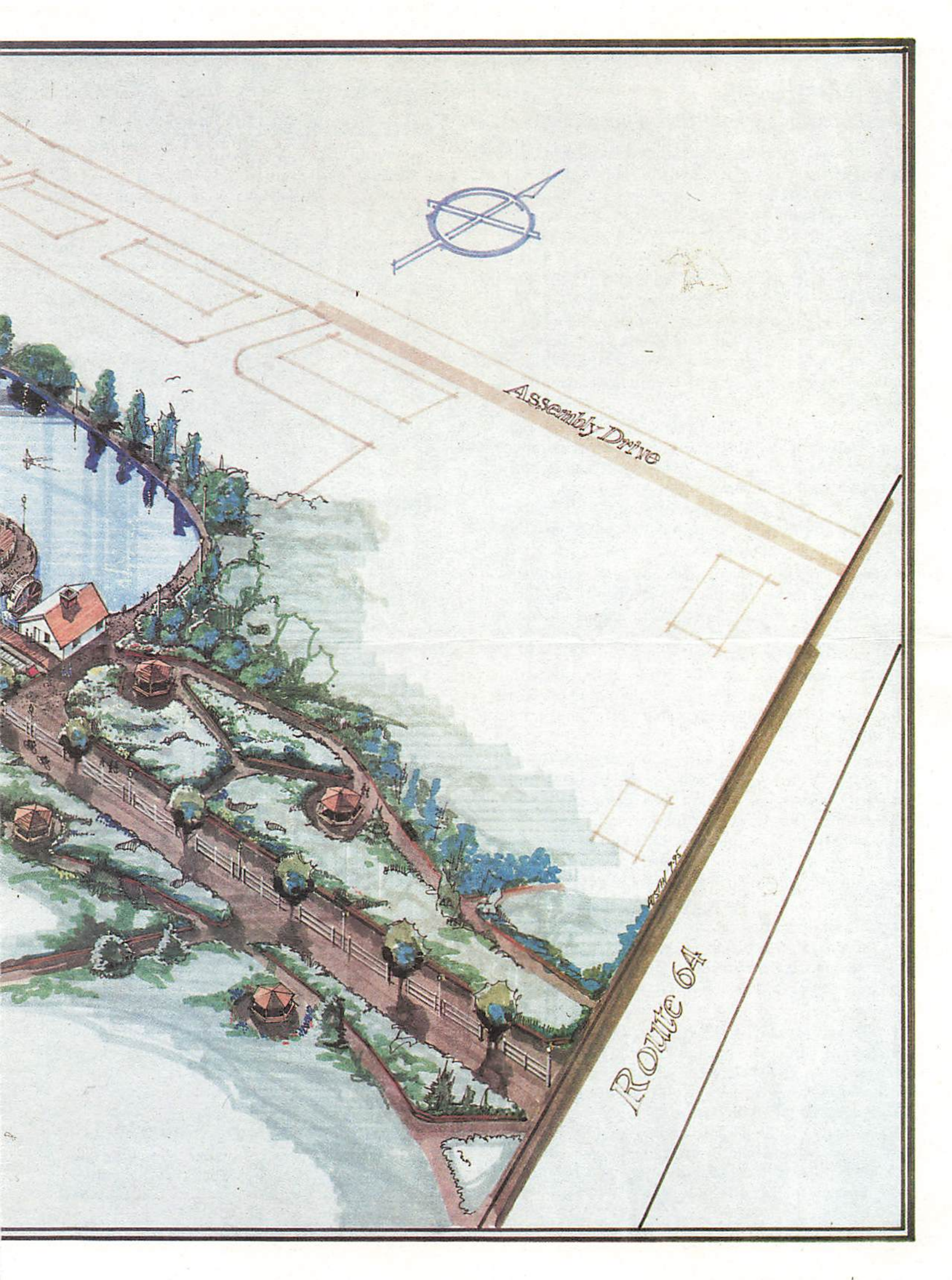
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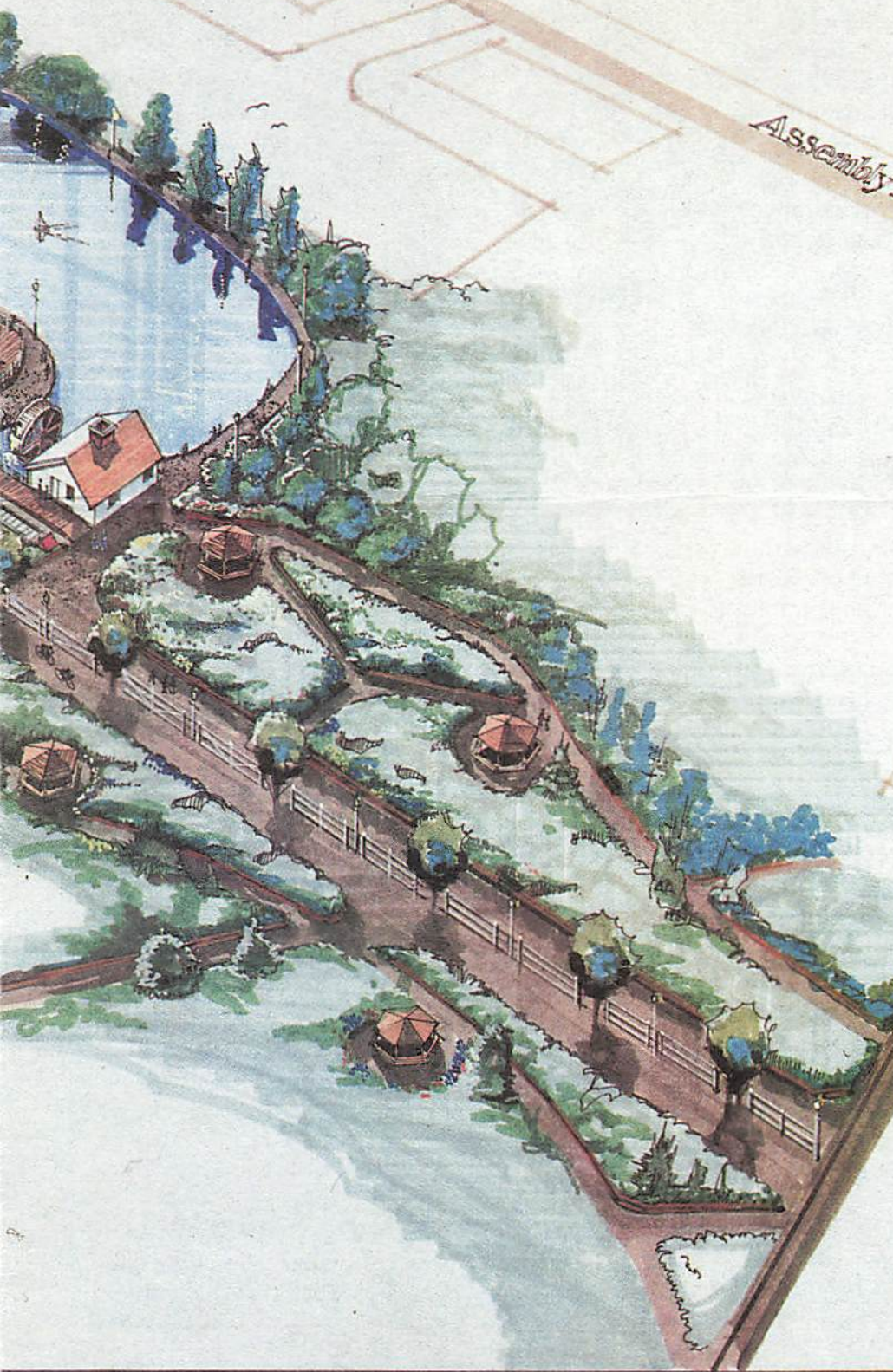


Route 251



*Assembly Drive*

*Route 64*



*1271 125*

## Trail Walk '95

*Notes from Elaine Koral, Event Coordinator*

On Sunday, May 21st, the Mendon Foundation held its first official fundraiser, dubbed TrailWalk '95. Participants raised funds for the improvement of the Lehigh Valley Linear Trail by obtaining pledges for walking the trail. A group of Seniors from the 1995 Class of Honeoye Falls High School played a major role in this portion of the event. A bench commemorating their participation will be placed at an appropriate spot on the trail.

Other town residents participated in the event as well. Some traveled by foot, others rode their horses and a few negotiated the trail by bicycle. Unofficially, approximately eighty people covered at least a portion of the trail.

The walk ended at the Little League baseball field in the Hamlet of Mendon where food and entertainment was provided. Aromas from barbecued chicken, hotdogs and hamburgers and pizza commingled in the afternoon air. The Honeoye Falls/Mendon Youth Baseball, Not Just Pizza and The Mendon House donated their profits from food sales to the Foundation.

Besides the food, event goers could relax and listen to Dixieland music provided by the band, The Black Diamond Express. Raffle tickets were being sold for one of the five theme oriented raffles being held. Some of the local businesses had booths and were selling their merchandise and a few not-for-profit organizations did the same. You could also get your blood pressure checked or take a chance at winning a prize in a putting competition.

The event concluded with the awarding of various awards. Cikki Carlsson, an exchange student from Mora Sweden, was the Senior who raised the most dollars in pledges. Eric Foss was the individual (other than a Senior) who brought in the most dollars in pledges. The Pride Variety little league team earned the award for the team that obtained the most number of pledges. Raffle winners were also announced.

Considering it was our first ever fundraiser, pulled together in a very short space of time, I think it was a great success. The Foundation made a profit on the event and the people who participated seemed to have a good time.

It is gratifying to have such wonderful support from individuals, businesses and local interest groups. I want to thank committee chairpersons, Carl Foss, Steve Foray, Susan Katz, John Spinelli, Lynn Buehlman, Wayne Gilman and Dick Dehm. Thanks also go to the Honeoye Falls/Mendon Youth Baseball and the Mendon Business Association who helped us in so many ways. Last but not least, I thank all those individuals and businesses who donated their goods and services and time. ■

## Order Your T-Shirt and Hat Today!

Show everyone you support the Mendon Foundation. We have hats that are white with a dark green brim. The Foundation logo is displayed on the front. One size fits all.

We also have dark green T-Shirts in medium, large and extra large sizes that look like the ones Carl and Susan are wearing.

Both hats and T-Shirts are \$9.95 each. If you would like to order, please complete the order form on page 8 and send it in with your check.



**They make great Christmas gifts too!**

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

### Could You Help Stick Labels on Newsletters?

We get together twice a year and it takes about 3 hours to do. We usually meet during the evening on a weekday.

If you can help, call Elaine Koral at 624-9733.

### Trail Clean-up

We had a great turn out of volunteers for our trail clean-up party, but we're always looking for more. We need general laborers but also people who can allow us to use their tractors, brushhogs, bobcats, weedwackers, and chainsaws. We also need people who can operate this kind of machinery.

If you would like to be added to our list of people who can help with the trail project, please call Dick Dehm at 624-4466.

### Equipment Wanted—Any Type of Tabletop Copier...

Please call any Board Member if you have one you can donate. Your donation is tax deductible.

## Summer Fun at the Park

The Mendon Foundation held its third annual "Picnic In The Park" on June 23rd at Hopkins Point Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park.

All our friends enjoyed the catered chicken, burgers and hotdog dinners prepared for us by Creative Caterers.

Once again this year, we commemorated the occasion with the planting of an evergreen tree. Dave Knight, John Spinelli and Steve Mango (shown in the photo from left to right) and other supporters helped to plant the tree.

"The sun is brighter and the grass greener," said Susan Katz, the event coordinator, "thanks to the supporters of the Mendon Foundation."



## New Members and Renewals

We wish to thank all those individuals who support the Mendon Foundation. The people listed below have become new members or renewed their current memberships since our Spring issue of the newsletter went to press.

Constantine & Eleni Anagnostopoulos  
Richard & Jacqueline Andrus  
Stephen & Suzanne Auburn  
Mark & Joan Audino  
Robert Barlow  
William & Patricia Bernhard  
Laura Birmingham  
Larry & Judy Bonk  
Dennis Briglin & Jean Turner  
Gordon & Ann Brown  
Katherine J. Calkins  
Dave & Linda Carr  
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John & Virginia Degenhardt  
Russel & Janine Dryden  
Gary Dudek & Leslie Algase, M.D.s  
Thomas & Daryl Edwards  
Don & Ellie Fisk  
Carl & Joan Foss  
Michael & Rose Francesco  
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Rich & Ann Haller  
E. Royal & Teresa Hanna  
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Robert Hayes  
John & Barbara Hewey  
Lawrence & Jan Hilderbrant  
Richard & Virginia Howell  
Robert & Barabara Hurlbut  
Richard Joint  
Jeffrey & Janis Jones  
Thomas & Roseanne Judd  
Philip & Connie Kellogg  
Kevin & Carol Lane  
John Langlois & Jennifer Rand  
Mark & Nancy Lanlak  
Martha Leas, M.D.  
Gary & Susan (Preston) Mauks  
Robert McDonald  
Roger & Laurie Moore  
Marion Moreton  
David Munro & Lisa Tobin  
Eric & Ann Nelson  
Rayno & Marge Niemi  
Gerry & Joan Nobiling  
Debbie Nupp  
Duncan & Alice O'Dwyer

David & Marianne Ogden  
Mark & Kelly Paganelli  
Bill & Lucy Parsons  
Ron & Mary Pluta  
James Prezorski  
Mary Robinson  
John & Kimberly Rooney  
Wayne Schobel  
Robert Sherman  
Gordon & Edith Small  
Scott & Annette Smith  
Bud Snyder  
Judith Stanley  
Nick & Elsa Steo  
Helen Taylor  
John & Deborah Tschiderer  
Bruce & Cyndi Vassallo  
John & Linda Vaughn  
Charles Vergo  
Rich & Elaine Walker  
Kurt Weissend, M. D.  
Paul & Mary Jean Weld  
David Wells  
Elisabeth F. Wesson  
Kevin & Trude Wright  
Richard & Kathleen Young

We would like to add your name to our list of supporters. If you would like to join or renew, please complete the membership form on page 8 and mail it in. Remember, your donation is tax deductible!

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## MEMBERSHIP/ORDER FORM

**YES, I am interested in The Mendon Foundation.**

- I would like to become a member of the Foundation.
- I would like to be a volunteer for the Foundation.
- I would like to be a volunteer specifically for the Trail Project.
- I would like a Foundation member to contact me.
- I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ hats.
- I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirts in M L XL sizes.  
(indicate how many)

### FEE ENCLOSED

- \$25 Annual Membership
- \$50 Annual Business Membership
- Special donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to be used for the Lehigh Valley Trail Project

} *Please include your check  
with your order.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: The Mendon Foundation, P.O. Box 231, Mendon, New York 14506-0231

Fall 1995