

## Foundation Events Calendar

The animals have awoken from their winter nap, the flowers are springing forth from the ground and the Mendon Foundation is blossoming with activities that all residents of the Town of Mendon can participate in and enjoy.

### Saturday, May 18th

We will be holding our second official Trail Cleanup Day. Volunteers should convene at the parking area on Route 251 in the Hamlet of Mendon across the road from the Little League fields at 9 am. Please bring pruning saws, clippers, weedwackers and the like and don't forget your work gloves and safety glasses. If you can bring large equipment such as bulldozers, bobcats or brushhogs, please call Dick Dehm at 624-4466 prior to the event.

### Tuesday, May 21st

The Foundation will be holding its annual meeting in the Board Meeting Room at the Mendon Town Hall at 7:30 pm. Foundation members will be able to vote for the election of new Board members.

### Saturday, June 8th

This will be the second annual fund raiser for the Foundation. "Trail Day '96" will be held from noon til 4 pm on Rte 251 at the Little League baseball fields in the Hamlet of Mendon. There will be great food, wonderful music, fantastic raffles and various activities for all ages including a walk along a portion of the Lehigh Valley Linear Park. Come join the fun!

Funds raised at this event will be used for the development of the trail. If you or a group you belong to would be interested in collecting pledges for walking the trail the day of our event as a fundraising effort contact Susan Katz at 586-1933.

### Friday, September 13th

Our fourth annual picnic will be held from 6 to 9 pm. This year it will be at Stewart Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park. Dinner will be catered and will include chicken, burgers, hotdogs and beverages. There will be

### • 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.

a \$5 per family donation to cover the meal. Please bring and appetizer, salad or dessert to pass. Call Susan Katz at 586-1933 to R.S.V.P.

### Fall Trail Cleanup

Another cleanup day is planned in order to continue the work on the Lehigh Valley Linear Park. A date in October will be scheduled.

The Mendon Foundation is truly a community based organization. It is operated by volunteers from within our community and the Foundation's efforts benefit our entire town's residents. We encourage you to participate in our events. ■



# Deer Management by Community Committee

by John R. Hauber

In the Spring of 1994, some of you and your neighbors helped forge the desired management policy for White-Tailed deer in your community for the next five years.

The State legislature charges the Department of Environmental Conservation (D.E.C.) with the responsibility to wisely manage the wildlife species for the people of the State. In the past to accomplish this, D.E.C.'s Bureau of Wildlife discussed management directions and desires with community interests, took those comments as well as results of area opinion surveys and developed a management program from them.

Sometimes the resultant actions were not well received. Satisfying all interests is difficult at best. Hard assessment of this process led in the late 1980's to a procedure now known as the Citizen's Task Force on Deer Management.

The State is far from uniform in the sense of climate, topography, land use, ecology and social concerns. How then can a singular strategy be used for deer management? It can not. A successful plan needs to be designed with local factors and community desires in mind.

Therefore, for deer management, the State is separated into over 80 small sections called Deer Management Units (DMU). These are geographical areas having distinct habitat types and land use characteristics. Mendon lies within the northern border of DMU89, an area of gently rolling topography, intensive field crop farming, relatively small woodlots and small communities. The whole of DMU89 includes northern Livingston and Ontario counties east to Canandaigua and Monroe county south of the NYS Thruway.

The best farm land will produce much of the best wildlife. Productivity is a matter of components. While this is recognized, it is further understood that there are limits and consequences. As long as man is present, the best farm land will not be reserved for wildlife. However, farmers do appreciate a special association with the land and what it produces including wildlife. While the potential of wildlife populations (deer in this case) is great in DMU89, there are definite realities which indicate numbers must be tempered by man's activities: agriculture, community and suburban development; recreation, highway systems, etc. These various interests then need to have a definite stake in the consequences of the management.

For DMU89, the stakeholders of the Citizen's Task Force included representatives from the Farm Bureau, Forest Owners Association, Sportsmen's Association, Garden Club, Rural non-farm land owners, Christmas Tree growers and the State Highway Department. While the Bureau of Wildlife obviously has a major part in the occurrence of the Task Force, it is not a member. An independent facilitator, often the local Cornell Cooperative Extension Agent, chooses the stakeholder representatives, calls the series of meetings and administers the sessions. State wildlife biologists participate, as may the Sheriff's Department, local political and park representatives, may act as technical advisors. They are available to provide biological data, harvest statistics and regulations, management consequences, car/deer accident numbers and local land regulations or management. Advisors are available for questions and guidance as requested, but otherwise are on the sidelines while the stakeholders arrive at their decisions.

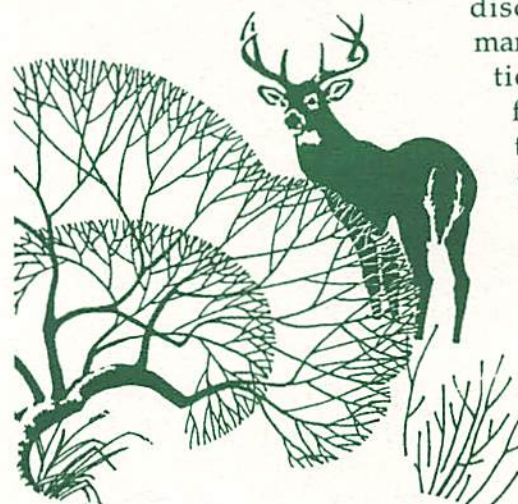
The Task Force is charged with the future management objective for deer within the DMU. Having received, at the first meeting, the technical information, past management history and the charge, the members are prepared to go back to their constituents. The information is shared,

discussed and a management direction is given or formulated by the representative to present to the Task Force.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carl Foss - *President*  
624-1634

Eileen Dobroski 624-2139	Dick Dehm ... 624-4466
Wayne Gilman . 624-5773	Mary Gerhard . 624-3812
Elaine Koral ... 624-9733	Susan Katz ... 586-1933
Loretta Foley ... 624-9370	David Hughes 624-8190





At the second session, each member shares the results of their constituents' survey and their desired population objective or direction. As imagined, the subsequent discussion to arrive at a consensus objective is informative and often eye opening. The various opinions and desires sometimes conflicting, are compromised to arrive at a decision best for the community. A third session is sometimes necessary.

With DMU89, a decidedly central concern was the degree of damage agricultural interests received from deer. Nearly all of this attention was focused within a few miles of Mendon Ponds and Boughton Hill parks. These areas, off limits to hunters, serve as refuges for otherwise inordinately high deer populations. Any unilateral management action that could greatly reduce damage around the parks would reduce populations in the rest of the unit well below desired levels. Car/deer accidents near the parks were also recognized of considerable concern.

While several members expressed a desire for considerable population decrease, such direction was greatly influenced by the park deer members. More fully understanding the implications and concerns resulted in a Task Force recommendation for a 5% population reduction. The State has incorporated this direction into its annual management of deer through sportsmen har-

vest. Coupled with this was a directive to the D.E.C. to continue dialog with Park Administrations to develop definite management strategies there. While parks are a desired feature in our communities, the influence and consequences of their presence requires responsible management of their resources. The State is continuing to pursue this direction.

A very interesting side issue crucial to deer management arose in the Task Force's discussions. Sportsmen's interests indicated some hunters were discouraged and hunted less due to the difficulty in finding land to hunt. On the other hand, the Farm Bureau indicated that farmers just are not asked for permission anymore: Wildlife influence on crops is increasing because sportsmen no longer hunt their lands.

**Solution: A.S.K.** A State program which provides posting symbols and permission cards to landowners. The symbols indicate hunter access may be allowed. To find out more about this program contact NYS D.E.C., Division of Fish and Wildlife, 50 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY 12233. Phone (518) 457-4481.

The Task Force process is a very rewarding illustration of citizen participation. The members feel much more a part of the decision making process. It further shows an important working together of the local community and the State to accomplish a common goal. ■

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# Mendon Frogs Go A-Courtin

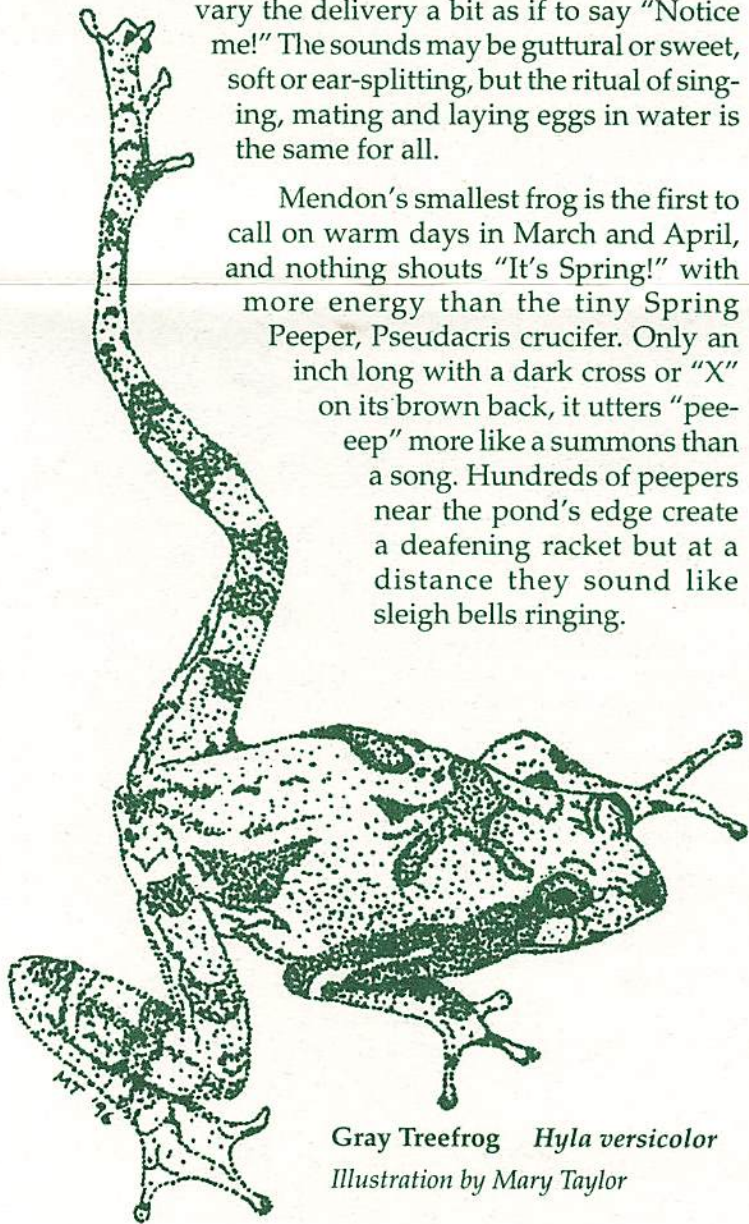
by Sarah Talpey

Frogs began singing love songs millions of years before people did, a head start they got when they emerged from the watery deep to live on land as amphibians. Although we don't know what those first frogs sounded like, we do know that today's frogs are saying more than "rib-bit" in their moonlight serenades that fill the springtime air with amorous intentions.

In our Mendon area, frogs awaken for their annual spring courtship after a long winter's sleep on the ooze of a pond or underground, or beneath a rock or log. They hop or leap to water's edge and males begin to sing to the silent females whose bodies are plump with eggs.

Each frog species has a distinctive song to attract its own kind, but like birds, individuals may vary the delivery a bit as if to say "Notice me!" The sounds may be guttural or sweet, soft or ear-splitting, but the ritual of singing, mating and laying eggs in water is the same for all.

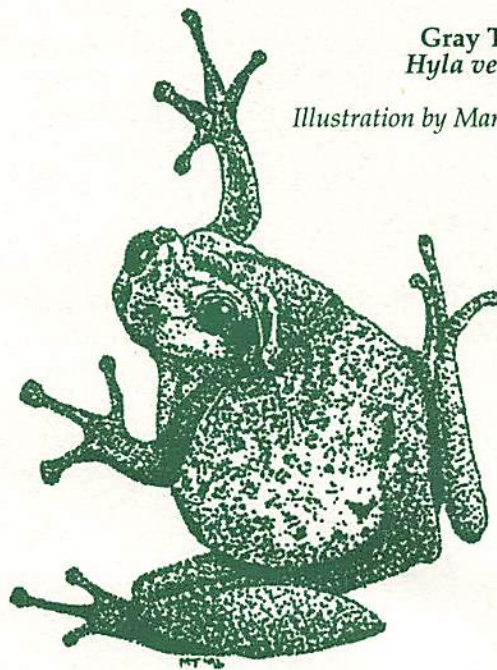
Mendon's smallest frog is the first to call on warm days in March and April, and nothing shouts "It's Spring!" with more energy than the tiny Spring Peeper, *Pseudacris crucifer*. Only an inch long with a dark cross or "X" on its brown back, it utters "pee-ep" more like a summons than a song. Hundreds of peepers near the pond's edge create a deafening racket but at a distance they sound like sleigh bells ringing.



Gray Treefrog *Hyla versicolor*  
Illustration by Mary Taylor

Gray Treefrog  
*Hyla versicolor*

Illustration by Mary Taylor



Another little frog, less common here, is the Striped Chorus Frog, *Pseudacris triseriata*, with three dark stripes on its back instead of the Peeper's "X". A solo Chorus Frog makes a vibrating "chr-r-r-p", a sound you can imitate by running a finger along the small teeth of a comb. The effect of an ensemble is soft like the sound of waves on the seashore.

Ice may still be melting on the pond when the low muffled notes of the mask-wearing Wood Frog, *Rana sylvatica*, bring to mind softly quacking ducks. Given more emphasis, the sound is like the clackety-clack of a retreating train. Shy and elusive, the elegant Wood Frog never calls attention to itself.

By the end of April, the beguiling Gray Treefrog makes its entrance with a loud musical trill. As soothing as a single Treefrog may be, the voices of many in chorus create a perfect din. We have two look-alike species - *Hyla versicolor* and *Hyla chrysocelis*. Resting on a branch, they look like blobs of silly putty, difficult to spot even in plain view. To add to the confusion, an individual Gray Treefrog can change color from gray to green, brown or even white.

You may know the treefrogs by their nickname of "tree toads". Their round shape and rough skin resemble that of the more homely toad and, in fact, frogs and toads are close relatives. Usually frogs have smooth, moist skin and they leap; toads have dry, "warty" skin and they hop.

Oh, but the unglamorous toad gains star status where it hops to the edge of the pond and sings! Our one and only local toad, the American Toad, *Bufo*



## Correction

The architectural drawing of the Lehigh Valley Linear Park featured in the centerfold of our Fall 1995 issue was painted by David Austin. We apologize for incorrectly reporting his name and wish to acknowledge the time and effort he contributed to the project.

americanus, has a high, sweet, plaintive trill of great beauty. One song lasts for several seconds and when several toads sing simultaneously with sliding, blending tones, the effect is spellbinding.

Two sleek, handsome frogs with odd voices and spots on their backs bring a strangely different sound to the spring serenade. The Pickerel Frog, *Rana palustris*, sings to its true love with snores low, steady, prolonged snores. The Leopard Frog, *Rana pipiens*, has a vocabulary of chuckles, moans and grunts. One Mendon resident likens it to a Model T getting its motor rewired up.

The fat green frogs sitting on the proverbial lily pads are our best known frogs, continuing to provide their version of music all summer long. One is the Green Frog, *Rana clamitans*, with its nasal, below middle C "K-tun-ugh", like the plucking of a loose banjo string. And the other is the big Bullfrog, *Rana catesbiana*, our largest frog at six inches or so with an appetite to match. Ap-

propriately, its voice is the bass fiddle of the frog orchestra: a deep vibrant call for a "jug-o-rum" or just "more rum".

An old Greek saying goes:

"Though boys throw stones at  
frogs in sport,  
The frogs do not die in sport,  
but in earnest."

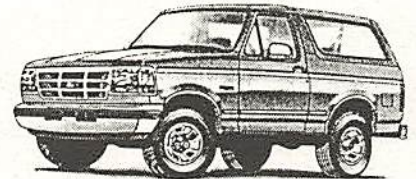
Today's frogs die in earnest because they live in an increasingly hostile environment. Modern ecological problems are particularly harsh for them with their absorbing skins and special habitat needs. Last year's breeding pond filled with songs and calls may now be a parking lot. Or a summer woodland habitat may be a subdivision. Chemical run-off, acid rain and snow, polluted water, road salt in breeding ponds, concentration of natural predators and road traffic take a tremendous toll. New studies show that, due to the thinning of the ozone layer, harmful rays from the sun destroy developing egg masses. These difficulties for frogs and toads do not have easy solutions.

Listen to their trills, peeps, banjo strings, snores and brr-rooms. It is an ancient language announcing Spring and life. ■



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## Volunteer Coordinator Appointed

Our membership has been growing. The number and scope of our activities has been growing. The people volunteering to help with our projects has been growing. We have needed a person that can coordinate volunteers with jobs suited to their interests and expertise.

Bobby Robinson has taken on that vital role as Volunteer Coordinator. If you would like to join in the fun and donate some of your time please call Bobby at 381-9266 .

## Special Thanks to:

George Baker, Ron Brand, Dan Cornwall for your exceptional volunteer efforts. Each of you has donated much of your time and expertise to the Lehigh Valley Linear Park project for which the Foundation is very grateful.

## Advertisements

To help defray the cost of producing our newsletter we are publishing advertisements for the first time in this issue. We encourage you to patronize the locally based businesses you will find advertising within these pages.



## WEAR YOUR SUPPORT!

We have expanded our line of clothing featuring our Mendon Foundation logo. Now in addition to our hats (white with dark green brim) we are offering sweatshirts and golf shirts. Both shirts have a dark green background and white lettering and come in three different sizes.

To commemorate this year's fundraiser we are also offering dark green T-shirts with "Trail Day '96" in white lettering.

Be sure to order early so that you have them in time to wear to our various events and around town.

	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like _____ hats at \$9.95 each. (one size fits all) <small>(indicate how many)</small>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like _____ Trail Day '96 T-shirts at \$9.95 each. M L XL (circle desired size) <small>(indicate how many)</small>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like _____ Golf shirts at \$14.95 each. M L XL (circle desired size) <small>(indicate how many)</small>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like _____ Sweatshirts at \$19.95 each. M L XL (circle desired size) <small>(indicate how many)</small>	_____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<input type="text"/>
Name _____	
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Please include a check with your order form and mail to: The Mendon Foundation, P.O. Box 231, Mendon, New York 14506-0231	



## New Members and Renewals

We wish to thank all those individuals who support the Mendon Foundation. The people listed below have supported us by becoming new members or by renewing their current memberships since our Fall '95 issue went to press. The list also includes people who have made special cash donations to the Lehigh Valley Linear Park project.

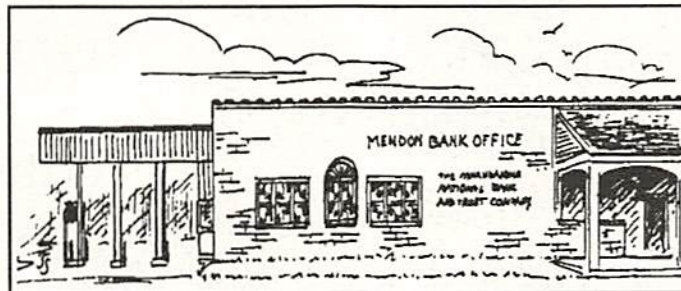
Nancy Allinger  
Vito and Joyce Arbore  
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Deena Weinstein and Don Zambito  
Robert and Eleanor Wisnieff

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

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- 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.

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