

Foundation To Form "Sibleyville Committee"

By Lynn Bakeman

The Mendon Foundation is forming a "Sibleyville Committee" to develop a stewardship plan for the 45 acres recently donated by the Sibleyville Farm estates to the Foundation. Members of the Sibleyville community met on Feb. 21st at a Mendon Foundation Meeting to organize this effort.

Carl Foss, President of the Mendon Foundation, welcomed the capacity crowd. He noted from the onset that the purpose of the meeting was to form a committee of anyone who is interested in fleshing out guidelines for the management of this parcel.

In order to provide ideas about the land's potential use, the Foundation invited two speakers to talk about the natural and historical aspects of the land – John Hauber and Peter Jemison

John Hauber, a wildlife biologist from the Dept. of Environmental Conservation, said, based on his visit to the site only a week before the meeting, "I was thrilled to have a reason to go up there. The vista and the amount of wildlife are amazing."

Aside from the steep slopes, the parcel is farmed and the other is fallow. Hauber identified tracks of fox, coyote, deer, squirrels, mice, woodchucks and possum.

Hauber suggested that the fallow land could be maintained as grassland with very little effort. A regimen of mowing would set back the weeds, give native grasses a chance to be reestablished, and create a friendly habitat for pheasants and smaller songbirds.

The slopes are steep and the soils are prone to erosion. Hauber suggested that the slopes could be planted with Highbush Cranberry and Serviceberry, which would be showy in the spring and also provide berries for wildlife.

Peter Jemison, a leader of the Seneca Nation and director of the Ganondagan State Historic Site, presented a series of slides detailing the Seneca presence in this area.

In 1655 Ganondagan was home to 4,500 people and capital of the Seneca Nation. The Genesee River was the Nation's western border; Lake Ontario the northern border; the Pennsylvania state line the southern border; and, its eastern border ran midway between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. After 1657 the western border expanded to western New York and the south shore of Lake Erie.

By 1657 the eastern branch of the Seneca Nation, including the chiefs responsible for keeping peace, knew Ganondagan

as their home. The western branch, which encompassed the warriors, lived at Totiakton, which mean's "bend in the creek." Totiakton was located along Plains Road. It is now believed that Ganondagan may have covered 1000 acres. The town of Totiakton may have been the same size.

Archeological research indicated an abundance of European goods at Seneca sites by 1550, and 75% of the artifacts discovered at Ganondagan and Totiakton are European, acquired by trading beaver furs. The Seneca were equal trade partners with the French, English and Dutch in the beaver fur trade.

After 1657, the Seneca had controlled the Niagra River, access point to the western frontier. This rankled the French, who had ambitions of monopolizing the fur trade.

Coming overland from Canada, France invaded the Seneca Nation in 1687, destroying the towns of Ganondagan and Totiakton, as well as settlements in what is now Lima and Bloomfield. Senecas had been warned and fled, but their crops – 1,200,000 bushels of corn for example – were burned. The Seneca Nation regrouped on the eastern shore of Seneca Lake.

The Seneca Nation is to acquire 38 acres behind Plains Rd., the site of two Seneca graveyards, from the estate of Vince Nebbia. When the last parcels of the estate are sold, ownership reverts back to the Nation. The burial site is landlocked and an easement is to be provided from Plains Rd.

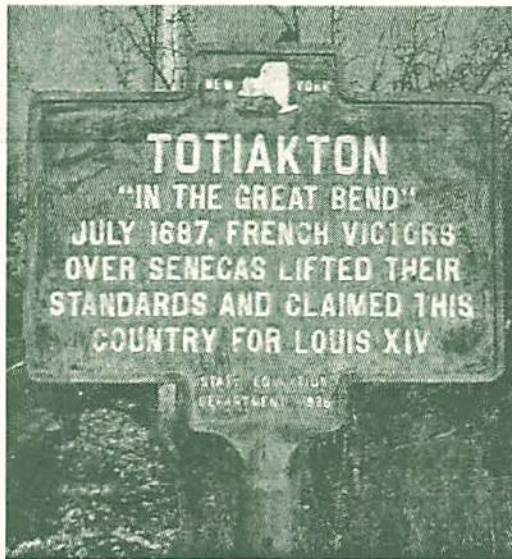
Jemison offered a description of Ganondagan trails and signs – in both English and Seneca – as examples of use that could be adapted to the Sibleyville site.

Discussion at the meeting centered around whether the farmland should continue to be cultivated, how any use of the land might impact neighborhood traffic, whether there should be hunting on the property and possible sources of funding.

Dick Dehm, a Mendon Foundation board member, noted the success that the Foundation has had in obtaining grant money. Foss reinforced the possibility of grant money and said that "The committee can feel constrained, but it can also dream."

At the close of the meeting Larry Hillbrandt, chair of the committee, welcomed anyone attending the meeting to join the committee that will oversee the land.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and are interested in joining the Sibleyville Committee, please contact Hillbrandt at 704-2245.



The Mendon Foundation Newsletter

The Mendon Foundation is a completely volunteer organization which exists with the generous support of its members, volunteers and contributors. Our newsletter is published three times each year. You may contact us with ideas and suggestions for our newsletter, requests for advertising and suggestions, or membership information. Our mailing address is:

**The Mendon Foundation, P.O. Box 231
Mendon, N.Y. 14506-0231**

Board of Directors:

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★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.

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 Mendon Foundation Membership Form

- I would like to become a member
- I would like to volunteer on / my interests are in:
 - Lehigh Valley Trail Committee
 - Trail Park Committee
 - Mendon Community Park Playground Committee
 - Mendon Hamlet Committee
 - Annual Dinner & Auction
 - Marketing Committee (advertising for newsletter)
 - Open space/preservation

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- \$50 Business Membership

Please make checks payable to: **The Mendon Foundation**
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Pheasants Forever Obtains Grant for Planting

By Giorgio Bracaglia

The Genesee Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever has received a \$10,000 grant and targeted \$5,000 for planting switch grass, beneficial to the Ring-necked Pheasant, in areas of Mendon and Honeoye Falls.

Mike Murphy of the Department of Environmental of Conservation was awarded \$10,000 for the purchase of warm season grass seed outlined in Pheasant Plan activity #5 under Wild Pheasant Management Activities. This award was to be split with two counties that will provide the best habitat reclamation for the ring neck pheasant

The Department of Environmental of Conservation allowed the State Council of Pheasants Forever decide where the funding would be implemented.

The point criteria selected by the state council of Pheasants Forever for evaluating sites were excellent in the Mendon / Honeoye Falls district.

Giorgio Bracaglia, who is the Pheasants Forever representative of Monroe County, asked the state council to provide funding for Mendon. The chapter was awarded \$5,000 to plant warm season grass in the Mendon/Honeoye Falls area.

The *Mendon Foundation Newsletter* was able to provide documenting facts for the grant (see the *Mendon Foundation Newsletter, Winter 2000*, pgs. 3 & 4).

Pheasants Forever and the Mendon Foundation identified five sites, totaling nearly 30 acres, for the grass-planting project. The land owners have donated a conservation easement for the grasslands project.

This spring, these parcels will be prepared for planting. The soil will be tilled, and soil samples will be taken to determine the pH and if any fertilization is needed. Then a cover crop of sorghum will be planted and that will be tilled-in at the end of next autumn, providing a fertile plot for follow-up planting of switchgrass.

In spring 2002, Pheasants Forever will till in the sorghum and plant the switchgrass. Switchgrass is a very hearty and durable tall grass that will remain upright through winters and other severe weather, providing much needed nesting and cover for the ring-Necked Pheasant and other upland species.

If you are interested in a pheasant/wildlife grassland restoration project, or you would like more information about *Pheasants Forever*, please contact Giorgio Bracaglia at 624-1785. For more information on the tax benefits of a conservation easement, contact Carl Foss at 624-1634.

History of the Mendon Community Park

By Rayno Niemi

The Mendon Community Park will be celebrating its 15th anniversary in May of this year. The park was built in over a four-day period from May 15 - 18, 1986.

Msgr. Albert Schnacky, former Pastor of St. Catherine's Church in 1984, planted the seed for a park for the hamlet. Msgr. Schnacky talked to some parishioners regarding the fact that the hamlet had no park for its children and parents to enjoy. The baseball fields had been donated by St. Catherine's, and he generously offered additional land at St. Catherine's to be used for the park.

At this same time, a number of towns and local churches were building creative playgrounds designed by Robert Leathers, an architect from Ithaca, NY. A core group of people, many of whom no longer live in the area, visited his

local parks and talked with their coordinators.

A core group met with other groups that had recently built parks in Greece and Victor. The core group contacted Robert Leathers in 1985 and started raising about \$4000 to pay for the design day. This first step was realized on July 11th, 1985 when Robert came to the Chancy Center. About 50 children came that day to design the park. They drew pictures of their park and talked with Leathers. Leathers used the childrens' ideas and designed the park that we now have.

The price of the materials was about \$30,000. The cost of the labor was \$0, all donated by the members of the community. The core group expanded into a myriad of committees and started extensive fund raising efforts. We had a "Buy a Board" campaign, a phone-a-thon, a wine tasting and numerous other projects. Many local citizens donated generously. We contacted local businesses to donate their products to us at cost or below. Many businesses contributed to this effort. Their names are on the plaques located on the kiosk in front of the park.

The entire community was saddened by the death of Msgr. Schnacky on January 22, 1986. His final wish was to have the community build the park and he requested that any donations be given for the construction of the park. The gifts in his honor pushed the funding raising over the top.

The spring of 1986 was a beehive of activity. Groups of volunteers had located a vast array of materials, including high quality pressure treated lumber directly from a mill in North Carolina, telephone poles, nails, screws, and other items we never knew existed. Robert and his team insisted on quality materials — nothing less than the best would do. For example, we visited a dozen quarries to find the proper pea rock for the ground cover. We had to reject donations that did not consist of the right type of stone — the playground needed "rounds" rather than "sharps."

We had the materials, but we worried about the volunteers. Would they come? To encourage people to work, we provided childcare and meals.

Two more committees needed to be formed. We asked people to sign up for a day, a half-day or whatever they could spare. And we crossed our fingers and prayed that the Monsignor would lend his support, yet again.

The two building foremen hired from Robert Leather's firm showed up on Wednesday, May 15 to start the process to drill the holes for the main supports of the structure. Only a few volunteers were needed that day since much of the work that needed to be done was accomplished with heavy machinery. The people who came that day, came back the next day and the next day.

The lists of volunteers swelled as the residents of Mendon saw the playground rise from the ground. In all over 200 hundred people worked on the park, many for more than one day, some from start to finish.

On Sunday, May 18th we dedicated the completed park in honor Msgr. Schnacky. Later a brass plaque was designed with a likeness of the Monsignor and his beloved German shepherd dog, Heidi, from a picture taken shortly before his death. The plaque is attached to a large rock near the base of the kiosk with the donation signs and has one of his favorite sayings:

*It's not what I preach on Sunday.
What Counts is the way I live my life
the other six days of the week.*

The park stands today as a commitment of the community

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to its children. It was a community effort that occurs far too infrequently.

I met many of my "now" best friends during the building of the park. I cherish the memories from that time. Now is the time to build new memories for the current residents of the Mendon area with the construction of the Mendon Linear Trail and other projects of the Mendon Foundation.

The Mendon Station Park Committee Report

By Warren Wallace

The Mendon Foundation has the responsibility to develop and maintain The Lehigh Valley Linear Trail, under a contract negotiated with Monroe County.

As part of its development responsibility, the Foundation determined that the 900-foot portion of the trail, between Route 251 and Route 64, was ideally suited for a trail-related park. These thoughts, along with a preliminary design, were presented at a community meeting held at the Mendon Fire Department last year. As a result of that meeting and a smaller one in the fall, a committee of interested persons was formed and started meeting on a weekly basis, shortly after the first of the year.

Building on the input generated from the community meeting, the committee has set the following objectives:

- ▶ Select the most appropriate development plan for that portion of the trail that runs through the Hamlet.
- ▶ Design a developmental plan that maximizes the benefits to the Hamlet, while honoring its past and serving its future.
- ▶ Explore funding options and design a financial plan.
- ▶ Present the entire package to the Community.

The Mendon Foundation is well on its way to meeting these objectives and is looking forward to presenting the results to the community as a whole in late spring 2001.

Companion Planting – It Works!

By Ellen Hickory Smith

Plant tomatoes in one bed and basil in another and you'll get good results. Plant tomatoes right next to basil in the same bed and watch them both boom! That's what companion planting is all about. Planting vegetables with specific herbs or vegetables that have a beneficial effect on each other.

So how does it all work?

Some vegetables deplete the soil of particular nutrients. Sweet corn is a gross feeder that takes a lot of nitrogen (and plenty of other nutrients) from the soil. Plant some climbing beans at the base of each growing corn stalk. The stalk will support the climbing beans, while the climbing beans' roots will fix nitrogen from the air into the soil where its needed most – next to the sweet corn's hungry roots. Beans and other legumes (like peas) grow well with other nitrogen hungry vegetables, like cabbages, broccoli and cauliflower.

Below is a list of plants and companion plants that benefit from being planted with each other:

Plant	Good Companions
Asparagus	Basil, Nasturtium, Parsley
Basil	Pepper, Tomato, Marigold
Bush Beans	Beets, Cabbage, Carrots, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Lettuce, Pea, Strawberry, Savory, Tansy, Marigold, Sunflower

Pole Beans	Carrots, Corn Cucumber, Eggplant, Lettuce, Pea, Radish, Rosemary, Savory, Sunflower, Tansy
Beets	Bush Beans, Cabbage, Lettuce, Leek, Onion, Raddish, Sage
Broccoli	Beet, Bush bean, Carrot, Celery, Chard, Cucumber, Dill, Kale, Lettuce, Nasturtium, Onion family, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Spinach, Tomato
Cabbage Family	Bush Beans, Beets, Celery, Cucumber, Dill, Lettuce, Nasturtium, Onions, arigold, Nasturtium, Rosemary, Sage, Spinach, Thyme, Tomato
Cantaloupe	Corn
Carrots	Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Chives, Leaf Lettuce, Leeks, Onion, Peas, Peppers, Radish, Rosemary, Sage, Tomato
Cauliflower	Beet, Bush Beans, Carrot, Celery, Cucumber, Dill, Kale, Lettuce, Nasturtium, Onion, Potato, Rosemary, Sage, Spinach, Tomato
Celery	Bush Beans, Cabbage, Onion, Spinach, Tomato
Corn	Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Cucumber,
Melons,	Peas, Squash
Cucumbers	Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Corn, Dill, Eggplant, Lettuce, Marigold, Nasturtium, Onions, Peas, Radish, Sunflower, Savory, Tomato
Eggplant	Bush Beans, Pea, Pepper, Spinach, Tomato
Lettuce	Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Carrots, Cucumbers, Onion, Peas, Radish, Strawberries
Melons	Corn, Nasturtium, Radish
Onion	Beets, Cabbage, Carrots, Celery, Cucumber, Lettuce, Pepper, Squash, Strawberries, Tomato, Savory
Parsley	Asparagus, Corn, Tomato
Parsnip	Garlic, Onion, Pea, Pepper, Potato, Radish
Peas	Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Carrots, Corn Cucumber, Eggplant, Lettuce, Radish, Turnips
Pepper	Carrot, Eggplant, Onion, Parsnip, Pea, Potato
Pumpkin	Corn, Eggplant, Nasturtium
Radish	Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Carrots, Cucumber, Lettuce, Melons, Peas, Squash
Spinach	Celery, Eggplant, Cauliflower, Lettuce, Onion, Pea, Radish, Strawberry
Squash	Corn, Dill, Melon, Nasturtium, Onion, Radish
Strawberry	Bush Beans, Lettuce, Onion, Pea, Spinach
Tomato	Basil, Bush Bean, Cabbage, Carrots, Celery, Chive, Cucumber, Garlic, Lettuce, Marigold, Nasturtium, Onion, Parsley, Pepper

Thank-You . . .

A sincere "thank-you" goes out to Larry Hillbrandt for installing our new printer for the Mendon Foundation.

Also THANK-YOU Canandaigua National Bank for serving as the drop off for the Kids Stuff Sale and to Becki Schirmer for organizing the sale to benefit the playground. See story on page 6 regarding our Kids' Stuff Sale to benefit the Mendon Community Park Playground.

The Mendon Foundation needs to upgrade its computer to one that is Windows 98 compatible and has a modem. If you have a computer that you can donate please call Larry Hillbrandt at 624-3440.

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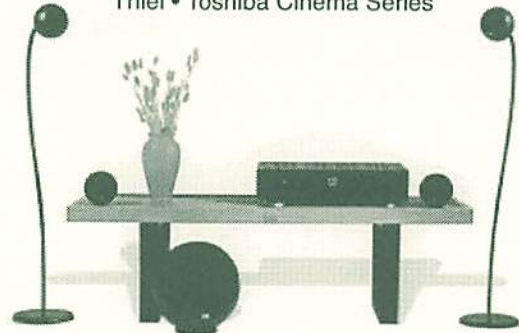
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1st Annual Kids Stuff Sale

All proceeds to benefit the Mendon
Community Park Playground

When: Saturday, May 12

Where: Mendon Community Park Playground, next
to St. Catherine's Church, Rt. 64 in Mendon

Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Donations can be dropped off at Canandaigua National
Bank Branches in Mendon & Honeoye Falls, May 1 - 10
(see story in this issue for additional details)

Meet Our Latest Board Member . . .

The Mendon Foundation is pleased to introduce its newest board member, Christopher Carosa.

Chris is currently adjunct faculty of Medaille College and SUNY Geneseo, where he teaches courses in finance and economics. He is also president of Carosa, Stanton & DePaolo Asset Management, LLC, of Honeoye Falls, which counsels individual trustees and fiduciaries on value-oriented long-term conservative investments for their portfolio management.

Chris is a popular public speaker and a prolific writer. The author of *Due Diligence: The Individual Trustees Guide to Selecting and Monitoring a Professional Investment Adviser*, his latest effort, *Planning for the Affluent*, is due out from Aspen Publishers this spring.

Chris is also President and Chairman of the Board of the Bullfinch Fund, a family of flexible no-load mutual funds featuring the Western New York Series, the only regional mutual fund investing exclusively in our local companies. Chris earned his undergraduate degree in Physics and Astronomy from Yale University and his MBA in Finance and Marketing from the Simon School. He is also a former board member of the Mendon Town Board. Chris lives in Honeoye Falls with his wife and three children – Cesidia age 7; Katarina age 5; and, Peter age 3.

Plans Final for 16th Annual 5K Benefit Run; 1st Annual Kids' Stuff Sale

The Mendon Foundation is sponsoring two fund-raising events to benefit the Mendon Community Park located beside St. Catherine's Church – the 16th Annual Mendon Foundation 5K Run, and the 1st Annual Kids Stuff Sale.

The 5K Run is scheduled for June 9 and will start at 9:00 AM with registration preceding the race. The race registration form is located in this newsletter.

The Mendon Foundation is in need of prizes to award to the runners. The Foundation also needs help on the day of the race to help direct traffic, time the runners or record the results at the finish.

If you are willing to help, please call Rayno Niemi at 383-4342. Volunteers need to be at the Mendon Fire Hall by 8:30 AM. On June 9. The race is over by 9:30 and the awards given out by 10:30. Your help is greatly appreciated. To volunteer, contact: Rayno Niemi at (716) 475-2202 or by email: rdn@it.rit.edu.

The second event, is our 1st Annual Kids Stuff Sale, to be held at Mendon Community Park on Saturday, May 12 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Kids Stuff Sale is exactly what it sounds like! We are looking for donations of "gently-used" children's items (toys, books, computer games, clothes, furniture).

This will be advertised in the *Democrat & Chronicle* as a multi-family yard sale to benefit the playground. You will be able to claim your yard sale items as a tax donation. Whatever is not sold will be donated to the Salvation Army. All items/toys must be in working condition and clean. All clothes must be clean, folded, sized. All items must be marked with a price. Please price items reasonably. We want everything sold.

Items can be dropped off at Canandaigua National Bank in Honeoye Falls and in Mendon, May 1 - May 11. To make arrangements for large items, please call Becki Schirmer. We are also in need of volunteers to help Becki the day of the sale. To volunteer to help with the Kids Stuff Sale or for additional information, please contact Becki Schirmer at 624-5822.

New and Renewing Members of the Mendon Foundation

The people and businesses listed below have supported us by becoming new members or renewing their membership since our last issue. Thank-you for your support!

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Carl & Joan Foss
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HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in maintaining the feeling of natural spaciousness that is Mendon today? Do you enjoy watching the wildlife in your open, wooded or wetland areas? Would you feel comfort in knowing that there is a plan and an organization to support preservation of the rural Mendon charm that attracted so many of its current residents? Could you use a tax deduction that a conservation easement or land donation would bring?

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

By completing the form at the bottom of the second page of this newsletter, you will tell us of your support for the Mendon Foundation or that you have an interest in more information about us. Volunteer your time, talent or expertise. Join the Mendon Foundation today. Your membership fee is tax deductible.

16th ANNUAL MENDON FOUNDATION 5K RUN – REGISTRATION

WHEN: Saturday, June 9, 2001 - 9:00 A.M. START

WHERE: Mendon Firehouse, Taylor Road & Route 64, Mendon, N.Y.

REGISTRATION FEE: Pre-registration by June 8th- \$13.00 / Race Day-\$15.00

REGISTRATION TIME: Race Day - 7:00 A.M. TO 8:45A.M.

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SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

GUARDIANS' SIGNATURE (UNDER 18): _____

Please make check payable to: Mendon Foundation

Mail check and completed entry form to: John Penamonte, 5 Kingsbridge Lane, Mendon, NY 14506

If you have any questions, call John @ 272-9400 (work) or 624-2358 (home) or e-mail penamonte@upstatesystems.com

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