

PATHWAYS

Vol. 10, No.3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENDON FOUNDATION

WINTER 2002

A member of the National Land Trust Alliance

www.MendonFoundationInc.org

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Mendon Station Park

In November, Davis Judson of Brighton significantly helped the Mendon Foundation by clearing-out the newly-enlarged Mendon Station Park as his Eagle Scout Project.

He organized the entire undertaking and along with about 20 other scouts from Pittsford, spent 16 hours over the long Veteran's Day Holiday clearing brush and debris from the Park and Route 64 Trail entrance.

The following is Davis' report on his project:

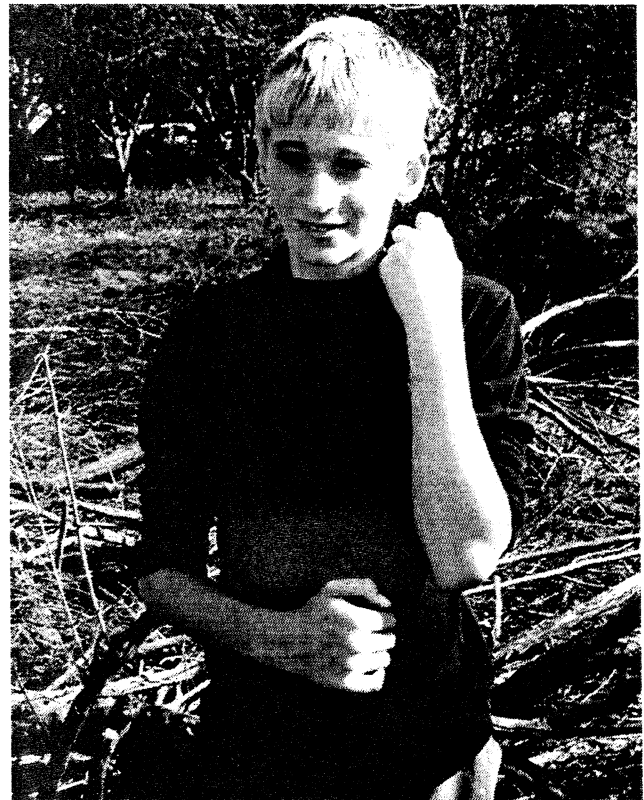
I wanted to do an Eagle project in the outdoors. I went to talk with Paula Smith of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. She works in the Soil and Water Conservation Dept. She didn't have a defined project for me but she referred me to Jonathan Friedlander. I called him and talked with him a couple of times. He set up a meeting with Warren Wallace. We met out at Mendon Station Park so that he could show me the place and tell me what needed to be done. I thought it was something that I could help with. I had to go to my Scout Master, Dr. Gerald Gacioch, to get his approval.

When I got the approval, I had to get my volunteers, borrow a chain saw and some tools, borrow a truck and get the key to the Mendon Highway Dept. so we could get rid of the brush. Luckily, the weather was really good.

We worked 6 hours on Sat. Nov. 9th, 6 hours Sun. Nov. 10th and 4 hours Mon. Nov. 11th.

The project included:

- ▶ Removing weeds, bushes, saplings, dead wood, railroad ties;
- ▶ Trucking the stuff to the Mendon Highway Dept. for chipping (we made about 15 trips to the dump for a total of about 265 cubic yards of brush);
- ▶ Removing metal posts and fencing, huge nuts, bolts etc. from the old railroad (Mr. Wallace got a scrap metal dealer to take it away), and removing rocks;
- ▶ Picking up garbage – (interesting finds – 4 tires, a sled, a frying pan, a broom, assorted eating utensils, cans, bottles and plastic jugs). We focused primarily on the Mendon Station Park but we also went across the street and worked on the entrance to the Lehigh Valley trail.



Davis R. Judson - 14 years old, 8th grader at Twelve Corners Middle School in Brighton, Member of Troop 129 based at the United Church of Pittsford, spent three days working on the Mendon Station Park as part of his Eagle Scout project.

A Special Thanks Goes Out to the following volunteers who helped Davis:

Corbin Magee, Garrett Magee, Andy Nitschke, Andy Rzatkeiwicz, Kyle Jozefski, Steve Deneker, Andrew Fernsten, Andy Tschiderer, A.J. Paynter, Chad Paynter, William O'Brien, Evan Drazal Gasster, Alec Greaves-Tunnell, Alec Hodgson, Matt Gacioch, Garrett Nelson, Chris Beckman, Matt Yates, Ryan Swisher, Lynne H. Magee, Bill Magee, Lauren Judson, Virginia Judson, Jay Judson, Louise Greaves-Tunnell, Jarrett Loeb, Roy Dement, Warren Wallace, Tim Schiefen, Marcy Gregg, Dan Bears and Al Smith

PATHWAYS

is the newsletter of the Mendon Foundation, a completely volunteer

organization which exists with the generous support of its members, volunteers and contributors. This newsletter is published three times each year and paid through advertisers.

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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:

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Volunteers spent 16 hours cleaning out Mendon Station Park. The Mendon Foundation Offers a heart-felt thanks for all of their hard work and effort that they put into this most difficult project.

Mendon Station Park Grows by 80%

The Mendon Foundation has completed a long-term (one dollar per year) lease of land from the Mendon Square Office Park Association.

The property, which lies immediately to the north of the existing Mendon Station Park, will be improved and used as additional park area.

The Mendon Station Park is located on the Lehigh Valley Trail between Routes 251 & 64 in the Hamlet of Mendon. With the much-anticipated improvements to the Trail becoming a reality in 2003, the Mendon Foundation is developing the Park, under an agreement with the County of Monroe. The Park's multifunctional design will be a substantial benefit to both Park, and Trail, users. Mr. Foss congratulated the members of the Association for their generous support of the Park development plan. "The addition of this property is a key part of our development plan for the Mendon Station Park. This demonstration of support from the local business community is very exciting," he said.



Carl Foss, President of the Mendon Foundation and Leona Piro, President of Estate Lee Properties, Manager of the Mendon Square Office Park Association, walk the newly leased property located behind them.

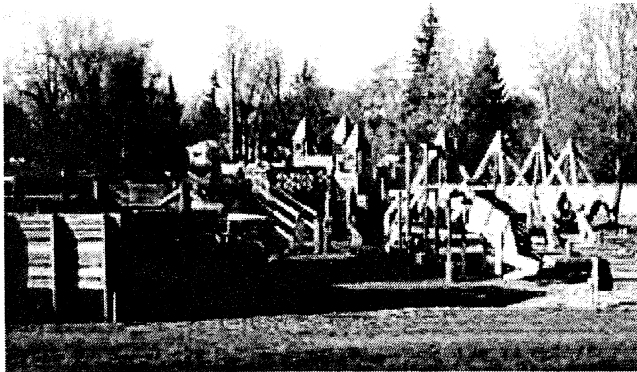
Mendon Community Park Playground: Sealed and Safe

Timbers have been replaced and the play structure of the Mendon Park Community Playground at St. Catherine's Church has gone through it's annual "sealing."

Many community residents have expressed concerns about the play structure, which was built in 1986 with treated landscaping timbers. Not to worry, according to Lou Manfredini of the popular radio show, *Ask Mr. Fix-It*.

Since it was built, the play structure has always been sealed with a penetrating sealer to extend the life of the wood. The good news is that since we have always sealed the structure, it has prevented wood preservatives from leaching out.

Rayno Niemi, who was one of the original volunteers who helped construct the playground 16 years ago, has generously donated many hours to the upkeep of the playground structure. Thank-you Rayno!



The play structure at the Mendon Community Park

Picnic Pavilion Substantially Completed

The first picnic pavilion, located at Mendon Station Park, is almost complete thanks to David Foss, a Honeoye Falls framing and decking contractor, who donated his time and expertise, as well as that of his crew, to complete this portion of the work.

We are now in position to have the pavilion shingled and get the trim work completed, well before next spring's picnic season.

The pavilion is located behind the Foggy Bottom Café, in Mendon Station Park.

The Park's plans call for four picnic pavilions.

The Mendon Foundation has received many letters of support and encouragement from our federal and state elected officials, the Mendon Town Board, the Mendon Square Office Park Assn., and several equestrian groups. U.S. Congressman Tom Reynolds referred to the park plan as a "linking center piece of

recreation and local history."

"The proposed site has the potential to serve as a catalyst for an educational, recreational and tourist center. It is my contention that the proposed expansion plan signifies an advancement for which New York State would be proud" Reynolds said.



Warren Wallace and David Foss go over the plans for the first picnic pavilion at Mendon Station Park.

Lehigh Valley Trail Update

Slowly but surely progress is being made on the Lehigh Valley Trail.

Representatives from Monroe County Parks Department, Monroe County Division of Engineering, NYS Department of Transportation, Mendon Foundation and the design team--LaBella Associates, Lu Engineers, and McCord Landscape Architects have reached agreement, resolving the three remaining trail design issues which have had a major impact on project cost and budget shortfall.

The first issue the team had to deal with was the selection of the specific surface materials to be used for the paved portion of the trail.

During the summer, ten different trail sections were constructed and evaluated for suitability, durability, cost, adherence to Federal standards etc. In addition, the experience of many trail builders at sites throughout the U.S. was gathered and included in the comparison study.

The second issue was the extent of the bridge work necessary to assure user safety and emergency access. The third was the number, the size, and the surface preparation required for the parking areas planned at various trail locations.

All of the environmental studies have been completed including hazardous waste, paint containing lead and or asbestos, endangered species,



Mendon Station Park Committee Member and Victor resident, Jonathan Friedlander, uses his tractor to help clear a segment of the Lehigh Valley Trail, which when completed, will open the last section of the Trail between Mendon and Victor.

addressed. It considers the use of Town of Mendon and Town of Rush labor for surface preparation of the trail. This not only would result in a construction cost savings but would mean added revenue for each of the Towns--a double benefit for our community!

The specific proposal details are being prepared for formal presentation to the Towns.

The final design phase is now under way and, after approval, will be followed by construction bids scheduled to be advertized in mid-February.

Assuming their agreement and weather permitting, Town crews could begin work on the trail bed in March. Contractor work is planned to start June 1st. and trail completion is now scheduled for November 2004.

Administration of the funds made available by our current Federal Reimbursement Program, is handled through the office of Mr. Steve Beauvais, NYS Department of Transportation. The funds are typically released after the various phases of construction are completed and the work inspected, to assure adherence to Federal Specifications.

and wetland investigations. No significant problems were discovered. However, these costs were not included in the original estimate.

A significant cost saving proposal is being

Gonfalon Farm Owners Sign Final Agreement for Wood Duck and Nature Preserve

Tim Pryor and Ellen Hickory Smith have signed the final paperwork with the federal government for construction to begin on a 12-acre Wood Duck and nature preserve on Gonfalon Farm, on Pittsford Mendon Center Rd.

The final plan, designed by JoBeth Bellanca of the Soil Conservation Service and approved by the Army Corp of Engineers and the N.Y. Dept. Of Conservation, calls for seven ponds to be constructed in the farm's old celery and onion fields. The ponds are all irregular-shaped and various sizes ranging from 100' X 150' to 200' X 300'. Five of the ponds will be connected with shallow ditches so that the ducks can swim from area to area.



A Wood Duck needs at least 10 acres of continuous habitat with old trees.

Not only are the old fields now protected, but there is an upland wooded area that will also remain forever-wild with White Oak, Beechnut, Black Walnut, Shagbark Hickory, Sugar Maple and Willow trees. The wooded area is also abundant with Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Trillium, Wood Sage, Spotted Cransbill, Monkey Flowers and ferns.

Various birds have their home on the farm, including Baltimore Orioles, Gold Finches, Indigo Buntings, Humming Birds, Common Flickers, Downey and Red-Bellied Woodpeckers, Nut Hatches, Red-Winged Blackbirds, Scarlet Tanagers, Sharp-Shinned and Cooper's Hawks. Tim and Ellen also report that a Great Blue Heron began visiting the farm three years ago, and has returned each summer. A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers made their home at the farm this summer (decimating a tree). Ring-Necked Pheasants are frequently seen in the yard during the winter.

The farm is also abundant with bull-frogs, leopard frogs, spring peepers, tree frogs, toads, salamanders, box and snapping turtles.

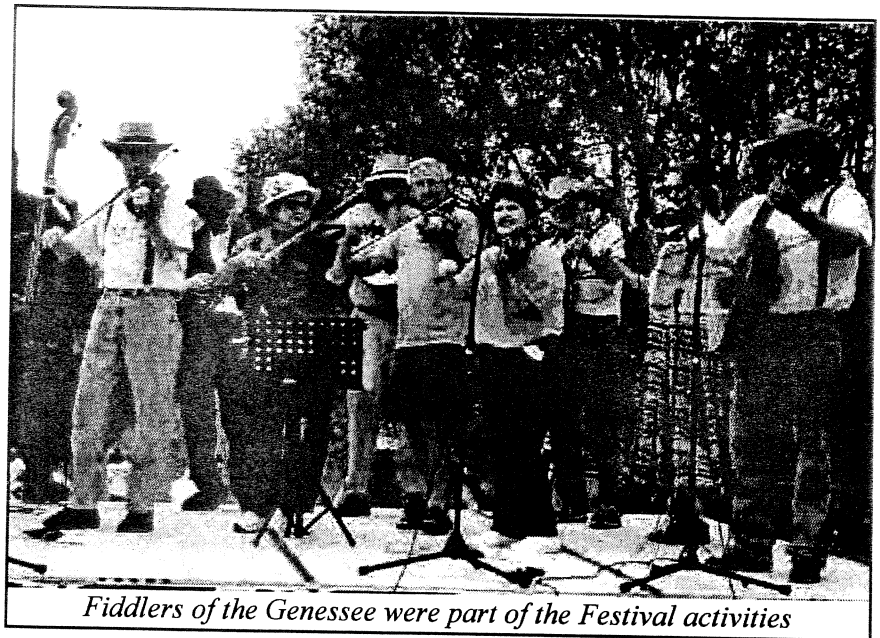
There are various options for landowners to conserve their land, like Tim and Ellen, and receive some tax or monetary benefit. For information on your options, please contact the Mendon Foundation at 585-234-8730.



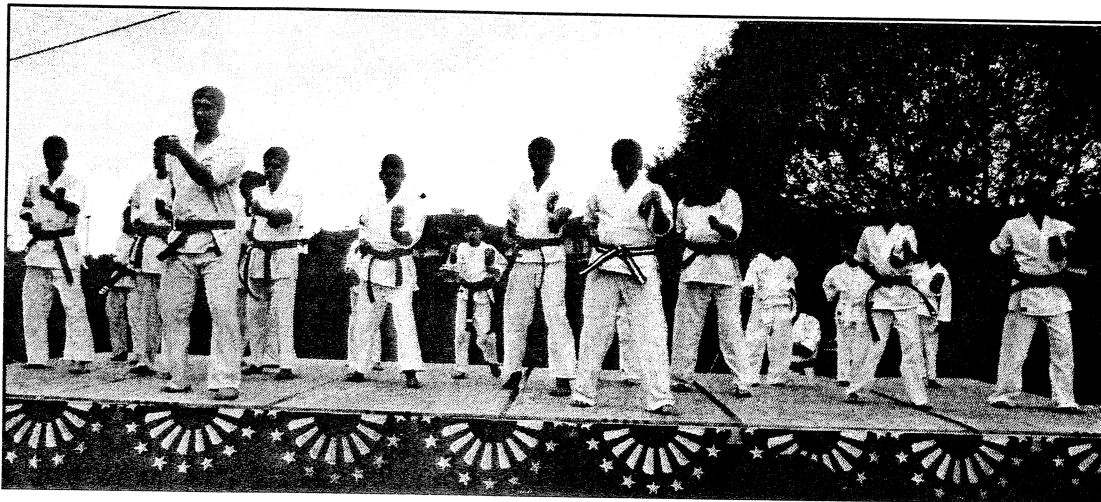
Jack-in-the-Pulpit is abundant in the now-protected upland area of Gonfalon Farm

Mendon Arts Festival Seen As A Great Success

In September, the new Mendon Station Park played host to a significant portion of the Mendon Arts Festival. Numerous Foundation members participated and Park events and activities included 11 hours of continuous stage entertainment, Jack Russell Terrier Races, Pony Rides, Zoo Mobile, Raffle and Soccer Kick Game. Booths and displays were set up for the Mendon Foundation, Town Historian, the U of R's Project Believe, Park Diorama, Mendon Fire Department and HF/Mendon Ambulance.



Fiddlers of the Genessee were part of the Festival activities



Students from the Mendon Martial Arts Academy demonstrate Seisan Kata at the Arts Festival



Festival pony rides were provided by Heberlee Stables



Irish dance students perform at the Festival

An estimated 5,000 people attended the Mendon Arts Festival this year. Plans are already under way for next year's festivities.

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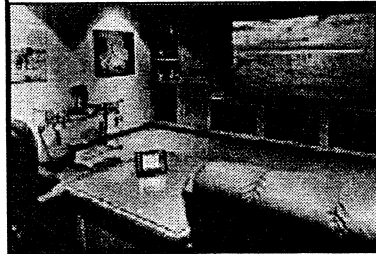
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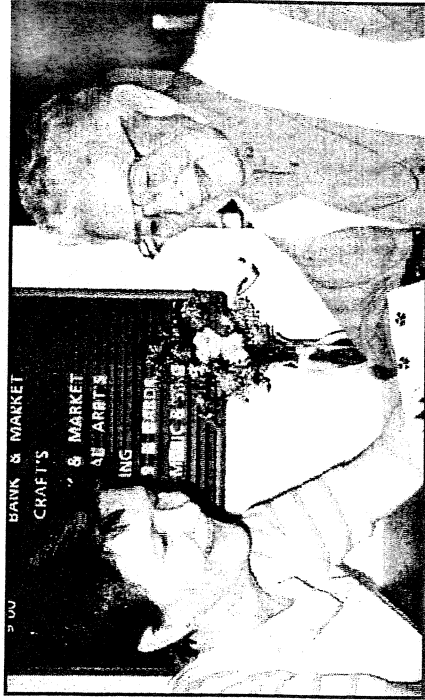
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