

The Newsletter of the Mendon Foundation

Spring 2002

Meetings of the Mendon Foundation are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 6:30 P.M., 20 Assembly Drive #108

Lehigh Valley Trail Public Workshop Scheduled For April 25th

Vol. 10 No. 1

The Mendon Foundation and the Monroe County Parks Department are holding a public informational workshop to discuss the proposed Lehigh Valley Linear Trail Project.

It will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2002 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Mendon Fire District Hall (corner of Route 64 and Taylor Road, south of Route 251). The public is invited to attend at any time during the workshop. Representatives from the County will be available to describe the project and answer questions, and individuals will be given the opportunity to make comments and offer their input to the project. We would love to have your input at this most important meeting for the Mendon community.

Cinders for the Lehigh Valley Trail Project, donated by Eastman Kodak, will be used as the base for the asphalt paved pedestrian portion. The cinders are being delivered to several sites along the trail. LaBella Associates, P.C., a local Engineering firm has prepared a preliminary design proposal which is being evaluated.

The current schedule for the project is as follows:

▶ Design Approval: May 2002

▶ Plans, Specifications and Estimate: June 2002

► Contract Letting: Fall 2002

► Construction Completion: Fall 2003



Marcye Gregg and Tim Schiefen clearing brush in the area of the Lehigh Valley Trail Park

Wetlands Regulations: What Mendon Landowners Should Know

Both the state of New York and the Army Corps of Engineers have jurisdiction over wetlands in Mendon.

If a wetland is under 12.4 acres it falls under the jurisdiction of the Army Corp of Engineers. If the wetland is

12.4 acres or larger, it is under <u>both</u> Corps jurisdiction and the jurisdiction of the NYS Dept. Of Environmental Conservation.

In addition, if there are two wetland areas less than 12.4 acres, and are 165 feet or less in distance from each other, and are hydrologically connected they may fall under both federal and state jurisdiction.

Penalties for wetlands violations from both the state of New York and the Army Corps of Engineers are severe. For instance, federal regulations call for civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for each wetlands violation. Violators may also be liable under New York law, which calls for civil penalties of \$3,000 per violation.

When violations are found, the wetlands usually must be restored, and it behooves landowners to understand what is and is not allowed under state and federal regulations.

Where Trouble May Strike!

A recent legal decision issued March 8, 2002 shows how a landowner may unknowingly violate wetlands regulations.

A horse stable, Lamplight Stables, decided to construct a pathway for horses using a sand and clay mixture without a getting a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. The path went through a wetland area of 8 acres, so it was under federal and not state jurisdiction. The clay did not cover the entire area and was a narrow path to get the horses through the wetland to a dry area.

The property was historically farmland and was drained by underground clay tiles so that it could be farmed. In addition, during the summer, the area where the paths went through, was dry. There was, however, some wetland vegetation. But because of the farming history of the property and the dry conditions, the stable did not think it needed a permit to construct the paths.

The Corps was alerted to the path when a wetland survey was being conducted in the area. The Corps wrote to the stable and told the owners that they had to remove the path and restore the area.

The stable challenged the Corps jurisdiction, whether the alleged area was a "navigable water of the U.S." and fit with the definition of a "wetland."

The court decided that the area was a "wetland" and under Corps jurisdiction. The court said that "water need not flow in an unbroken line at all times to be considered part of a wetland." An "intermittent flow" of water was enough to establish a wetland and the Corps' jurisdiction.

In addition, the court stated that a wetlands area could be "two or three times removed from the navigable water and still be subject to the Corps' jurisdiction."

(United States of America v. Lamplight Equestrian Center; U.S. Dist. Ct. N.D. Ill., E.D. No. 00-C-6486)

What Are the Types of Wetlands in Mendon? Wetlands in Mendon are comprised of transition areas

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 and paid for through its advertisers. 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:

Carl Foss - President: 624-1634

Warren Wallace: 624-5754

★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.

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The Mendon Foundation Membership Form

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between uplands and aquatic habitats.

They are known by many names, such as marshes, swamps, bogs, and wet meadows. Standing water is only one clue that a wetland may be present. The *Freshwater Wetlands Act* identifies wetlands on the basis of the plants in the area.

According to New York State law, land and/or water that contains any or all of the following plants is considered a wetland:

- ▶ wetland trees, which depend upon seasonal or permanent flooding or sufficiently water-logged soils to give them a competitive advantage over other trees, including, among others, red maple (Acer rubrum), willows (Salix spp.), black spruce (Picea mariana), swamp white oak (Quercus bicolor), red ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), black ash (Fraxinus nigra), silver maple (Acer saccharinum), American elm (Ulmus americana), and larch (Larix laricina);
- ▶ wetland shrubs, which depend upon seasonal or permanent flooding or sufficiently waterlogged soils to give them a competitive advantage over other shrubs, including, among others, alder (Alnus spp.), buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), bog rosemary (Andromeda glaucophylla), dogwoods (Cornus spp.), and leatherleaf (Chanaedaphne calyculata);
- ▶ emergent vegetation, including, among others, cattails (Typha spp.), pickerelweed (Pontederia cordata), bulrushes (Scirpus spp.), arrow-arum (Peltandra virginica), arrowheads (Sagittaria spp.), reed (Phragmites communis), wild rice (Zizania aquatica), bur reeds (Sparganium spp.), purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria), swamp loosestrife (Decodon verticillatus), and water plantain (Alisma plantago-aquatica);
- ▶ rooted, floating-leaved vegetation, including, among others, water lily (Nymphaea odorata), water shield (Brasenia schreberi) and spatterdock (Nuphar spp.);
- ▶ free-floating vegetation, including, among others, duckweed (Lemna spp.), big duckweed (Spirodela polyrhiza), and watermeal (Wolffia spp.);
- ▶ wet meadow vegetation, which depends upon seasonal or permanent flooding or sufficiently waterlogged soils to give it a competitive advantage over other open-land vegetation, including, among others, sedges (Carex spp.), rushes (Juncus spp.), cattails (Typha spp.), rice cut-grass (Leersia oryzoides), reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), swamp loosestrife (Decodon verticillatus), and spikerush (Eleocharis spp.);
- ▶ bog mat vegetation, including, among others, sphagnum mosses (Sphagnum spp.), bog rosemary (Andromeda glaucophylla), leatherleaf (Chamaedaphne calyculata), pitcher plant (Sarracenia purpurea), and cranberries (Vaccinium macrocarpon and V. oxycoccos);
- ▶ submergent vegetation, including, among others, pondweeds (Potamogeton spp.), naiads (Najas spp.), bladderworts (Utricularia spp.), wild celery (Vailisneria americana), coontail (Ceratophyllum demersum), water milfoils (Myriophyllum spp.), muskgrass (Chara spp.), stonewort (Nitella spp.), waterweeds (Elodea spp.), and water smartweed (Polygonum amphibium).

In addition, lands and submerged lands containing remnants of any vegetation that is not aquatic or semi-aquatic that has died because of wet conditions over a sufficiently long period is also considered a "wetland" for regulatory purposes.

Alteration of a Wetland

According to New York state and federal law, you may not alter a wetland without a permit. Alteration refers to the

conduct of any of the following activities within the wetland or within 100 feet of the wetland (an adjacent area greater than 100 feet may be established where necessary to protect and preserve the wetland):

▶ any form of draining, dredging, excavation, removal of soil, mud, sand, shells, gravel or other aggregate from any freshwater wetland, either directly or indirectly;

▶ any form of dumping, filling, or depositing of any soil, stones, sand, gravel, mud, rubbish or fill of any kind, either directly or indirectly (includes manure piles, pet waste, yard waste ie: leaves, wood, sticks, garden weeds);

• erecting any structures (includes sheds), roads, the driving of pilings, or placing of any other obstructions whether or not changing the ebb and flow of the water;

▶ any form of pollution, including but not limited to, installing a septic tank, running a sewer outfall, discharging sewage treatment effluent or other liquid wastes into or so as to drain into a freshwater wetland;

▶ any other activity which substantially impairs any of the several functions served by freshwater wetlands or the benefits derived therefrom.

Wetland Permits

To conduct any regulated activity in a wetland <u>or within</u> 100 feet of a wetland, a permit is required.

Permit standards require that impacts to wetlands be avoided and minimized.

If the proposed activity will not seriously affect the wetland, a permit with various conditions is usually issued.

If the proposed activity will affect the wetland, the benefits gained by allowing the action to occur <u>must outweigh the</u> wetland benefits lost, in order for a permit to be issued.

When a Permit is Required

No person may alter any wetland or adjacent area without having first submitted an application and obtained an interim permit for the alteration from the DEC or Corps.

Activities that do not require a permit include:

- normal agricultural practices (except filling and clear cutting);
- recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, swimming, or picnicking;
- ordinary, routine maintenance of existing structures, existing lawns, and similar facilities;
- ▶ selectively cutting trees and harvesting fuel wood.

Activities where you must obtain a permit include:

- installing utilities to a residence (exempt in an adjacent area);
- drilling an individual water well in an adjacent area;
- ▶replacing existing, functional bulkheads, installing docks, piers, or wharfs;
- filling and grading;
- erecting buildings, including houses, barns, garages, sheds and commercial facilities;
- ▶ restoring, modifying, or expanding existing structures:
- draining, (except for agriculture), dredging, or otherwise changing water levels in wetlands, including breaching of beaver dams, constructing or removing bulkheads, dikes, or dams;
- ▶ installing roads or paths using <u>any type</u> of fill material (including wood chips, sawdust, clay, sand, stone, peatmoss, topsoil);
- >applying pesticides; and,
- ▶ clear cutting trees or other vegetation;
- mining.

Do Not Start a Project Before Obtaining a Permit!

You must obtain all necessary permits before commencing work on a project that requires any DEC permit. Persons commencing work on such a project before obtaining the required permits, and any contractors engaged in such work, are subject to enforcement action by the DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers including civil or criminal court action, fines, or an order to remove structures or materials or perform other remedial action, or both a fine and an order.

To find out if you need a permit, please contact or call DEC's Division of Environmental Permits, 6274 E. Avon-Lima Road Avon, NY 14414-9519 (585) 226-5400. If you need to know if there are wetlands on your property, the Mendon Town Clerk's office has the official wetlands map.

Meet Our Latest Board Member

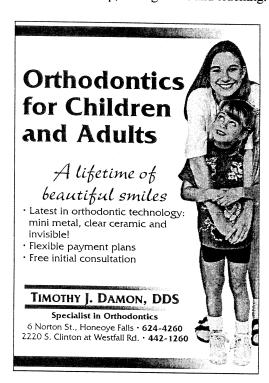
The Mendon Foundation is pleased to announce that Arlene Cluff has been appointed to the Mendon Foundation Board of Directors.

Arlene is a 21 year resident of Mendon and served on the town of Mendon's Environmental Conservation Board from 1994 through April 2001, and also served as Board chairman. She initiated the ECB Assessment Checklist Report for properties; updated the *Open Space Index* for preliminary review; wrote several proposals and reports and participated in conservation related community activities.

Arlene also served on Mendon's Open Space, Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committees and assisted in developing the *Open Space, Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

She is a Certified Landscape Design Consultant and has been a member of the National Council of Federated Garden Clubs since 1985; a 30 year member of Four Seasons Garden Club; a member of the 7th District Board; and, a member of the Genesee Valley Hosta Society.

Arlene is a retired registered professional nurse from the University of Rochester Medical Center, and has extensive experience with leadership, management and teaching.



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Happiness is a Bluebird

By John Buck

There are days near the end of a long gloomy winter when we yearn for a taste of spring. The sun lingers above the horizon a moment later each evening, and the buds on the maples are swollen. But sharp winds bring low clouds scuttling across the sky, and a skiff of snow covers the dwindling woodpile. Then we glimpse a splash of color, hunched into the wind, fluffed in its mantle of down. The feathers on its back remind us of the color of the sky on the clearest summer day. Its orange breast seems to radiate warmth from the distant sun. We step onto the deck and hear a soft, lilting warble. The bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) has returned. Can spring be far behind?

"A bird so familiar as the bluebird needs no introduction. In fact, he seems so at home in our orchards and gardens or about our dwellings that one wonders what he did for a home before civilization arrived." *F.W. Herrick*

The blueness of bluebirds is a distinctive feature, since blue feathers are found on only 2 percent of North American species. There is no pigment in bluebird feathers. Like the shimmering colors of a soap bubble, the blue originates from light waves scattered by a unique structure in the feather. The intensity of blue depends upon the brightness and angle of the sunlight illuminating the feather. Thus, a bluebird may look deeper blue at midday in full sun than at dawn or on a cloudy day. In a sense, the blue color is an illusion.

Nesting and Migration

The bluebird's presence signals the beginning of an all-important search for suitable nesting space. Migrant males usually arrive several days to a week before the females. They must locate a cavity, then defend it and nearby foraging grounds from competing male bluebirds and other birds who might bully for possession of the chamber.

Bluebirds can get evicted from their birdhouse by aggressive house sparrows, so site selection for a bluebird house is critical. Eastern bluebirds generally begin nesting in this area by mid April. Some bluebirds return to the same nest cavity where they were raised. Older, more experienced birds usually stake out the best cavities where food is most abundant. They use two to three acres around the nest as a foraging area.

In nearly all species of North American songbirds, the male proclaims territory through a combination of song and visual communication. Females scrutinize the males as they flit from branch to branch around the perimeter of their territory. The male will warble in their loudest voice but they are not noted for forceful songs. They are simple and persistent, repeating phrases twenty times a minute in a soft pitch rather than a shrill range.

Once a male has attracted a female, his song becomes softer and less frequent. Soon thereafter, he will hover at the entrance to the nest cavity, oftentimes carrying a bit of nesting material. He spreads his wings to display his radiant blue colors to her, then will stick his head into the cavity as an invitation to join him there. At last he slips into the cavity and pokes his head out for her to see. Hopefully, for him, a bond is formed and the serious task of making the nest and producing offspring will commence. Courtship may take a week or two

in the spring or less than a day for the second and third broods.

We can only guess how the female makes her choice. Since older birds pair more quickly, experience must factor into the decision. Finally the female enters the cavity and takes a brief look around while the male celebrates with joyful songs and offerings of food. They will honeymoon in the territory for two weeks before constructing a nest, and can be seen nuzzling side by side, stretching their wings in the sun, and calling back and forth. In the Eastern Bluebird, the sound is "tur-wee" or "chee-do".

If a second male arrives, the owner may fly to the cavity and place himself between it and the intruder. He sings as forcefully as he can, but if this fails to repel the intruder, then dive-bombing, beak snapping, and evens pecks on the neck and back and wing beating are often seen.

The female bluebird lays from four to six bluish white eggs, which hatch in about twelve days. The young remain in the nest two to three weeks and are cared for by both parents, thought the female seems to do the majority of the feeding while the male flits from fencepost to phone pole, singing his territorial rights. The nesting season lasts from mid-March to early August; there are two, often three broods a season. Bluebirds remain in the vicinity of their nesting place for some time after the breeding season is over. They are usually found in small flocks, probably representing family groups.

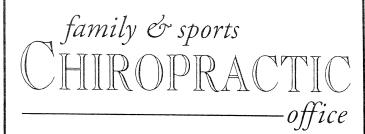
Today the bluebird is a fairly common, widespread species, though there was some decline in numbers a few years ago in the northeast. Usurpation of its nesting places by starlings and house sparrows is one of the most frequently cited reasons for this decline. Moreover, the conversion of farmland into housing developments and industrial parks has destroyed large tracts of suitable habitat. Bluebirds typically choose to breed in more or less open habitat around a farm, grassy orchard, pasture, or hayfield. They may also nest in suburban gardens, parks, or open woodlots.

The bluebirds we enjoy here in Mendon most likely winter in the Carolinas, Georgia, the Gulf Coast or in Florida, with a small number appearing as far northward as southern New York and Michigan in mild winters. The southward migration occurs chiefly in October, although bluebirds are seen with fair regularity in the North well into November. They are one of the earliest spring migrants, returning in early March, often before the last heavy snowfalls of the season.

Welcoming Bluebirds to Your Yard

Author Larry Zeleny writes, "Bluebird conservation offers an unusual opportunity for people who are truly concerned about our wildlife heritage to accomplish something by means of direct action...to do something tangible, to become directly involved, in an activity that will help save some valuable species of wildlife from annihilation."

This may explain people from all walks of life have collectively mounted an estimated half-million bluebird houses along the fence rows and back roads of North America. It is hard to be personally involved in saving an endangered species such as a manatee or a black rhino, but many of us can have a pair of bluebirds if we are willing to modify our backyards slightly. Right here in Mendon, you can become a

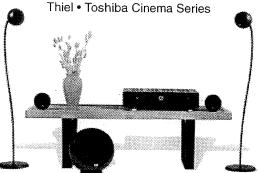


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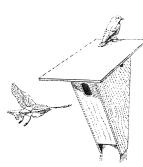
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Few birds are so completely without fault as the bluebird. Even in the matter of food the bluebird preserves its immaculate reputation. The young are fed entirely on insects, mainly destructive forms such as cutworms, grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars, and crickets. Flying insects are also taken occasionally. It is not adept at aerial maneuvering to capture prey. So far as vegetable matter is concerned, the bluebird is positively harmless.

Bluebirds do not eat the sunflower or thistle seeds many of us provide to other birds in our feeders. The bluebird equivalent to ice cream must surely be a mealworm. These inch-long cream-colored creatures are larval darkling beetles,



which are pests in commercial grain elevators and are sold in bait and pet shops. Many proprietors of bluebird nest boxes keep mealworms handy from late winter through the nesting period, offering a handful of mealworms in a small plastic lid nailed to the top of the nesting box or placed nearby on the ground. The birds catch on quickly. They gobble up the offering, stuffing as many as

half a dozen into their beaks before entering the nest box to feed hungry babies. Don't drop mealworms into the nest box; let parents decide when and how many to feed their offspring.

Another way to attract bluebirds is to provide a safe, reliable water source, as they bathe and drink frequently in the summer. A shallow birdbath or bowl of water about an inch deep is perfect, and it should be large enough for the whole family to enter if they wish. Bluebirds immerse, fluttering their wings and tails briskly and dipping their heads under water for a thorough soaking.

There is more to the hobby of bluebirding than mounting a box on the back fence and forgetting about it. Lifting the lid to peek into this fascinating realm brings anticipation, surprises, and occasional disappointments.

You can easily provide suitable shelter by building a nest box and locating it in the proper environment. Many of the local home and garden centers have a variety of bluebird boxes and building plans. You may find it fun to construct one yourself for pure satisfaction or as a family project.

Wood is the most common material for building a nest. Wood is reasonably priced, easy to work with, and durable. Pine is readily available though it may warp as unfinished surfaces weather, Western red cedar has natural rot resistance and does not require painting.

Paint pine or plywood a light color or coat these woods with linseed oil to help weatherproof them. Do not paint the inside of the box! Use 1 inch thick (actually ¾") wood because thinner woods do not insulate well enough.

The sturdiest methods of construction include using screws or galvanized nails and glue. The height of the box from the floor to the bottom of the entrance hole should be from 5 to 7 inches, and the minimum floor space needed is 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The opening should be $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. No perch is necessary and you should roughen the inside under the entrance hole for easy exit. Cleaning is easiest if the front

or side swings open. Also, allow a small gap between the sides and the roof or drill small holes in the upper sides for ventilation in the summer heat, and an overhang on the roof of at least 2 inches will keep out rain and snow. You may even want to drill small holes on the corners of the floor to prevent moisture from accumulating. Waxed or metal poles with predator baffles are far more effective than nailing the box to a tree or fencepost. Be sure to mount the box so the opening is about 5 feet from the ground. Face the opening away from prevailing winds and direct sunlight.

It is important to mount the box in the open, at least 100' from dense woods or brushy areas, and to deter wrens and sparrows from disturbing the nest. A nearby sapling or small bush will provide a "lookout" from which to search for insects, and will also provide some shelter away from predators for the fledglings as they leave the nest. Also, be sure to place boxes at least 100-150 yards apart to protect territories. If you decide to have a pair of boxes, place them 5-25 feet apart, and this will provide a nesting box for the house sparrows and will prevent competition between the species.

Landscaping for Bluebirds

Trees with fruits available in summer or fall: Black Gum (Tupelo), Carolina Buckthorn, Black Cherry, Chokecherry, Flowering Dogwood, Red Mulberry, Downy Serviceberry

Trees with fruit available in winter: Hackberry, Washington Hawthorn, American Holly, American Mountain Ash, Eastern Red Cedar, Sugarberry, Smooth Winterberry

Shrubs and herbs with fruits available in summer or fall: Blackberry/raspberry, Blueberry, Alternate Leaf Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, American Elderberry, Pokeberry

Shrubs and herbs with fruits available in winter:
Bayberry, Blackhaw, Red Chokecherry, Small-leaved
Cotoneaster, Firethorn, Foster Holly, Common Juniper,
Mistletoe, Smooth Sumac, Staghorn Sumac, Dwarf
Sumac, Cranberry Viburnum, Wax Myrtle

Vines with fruits available in summer and fall: Wild Grape

Vines with fruits available in winter: American Bittersweet, Winter Grape, Poison Ivy, Virginia Creeper

Mendon Station Park Committee Update

Things have been steadily moving forward since our last update, and now that spring has finally arrived, we can start to put winter's planning into action.

Volunteers have completed construction of the Picnic Pavilion's base and by the time you read this, the roof structure should be well under way. Gifting the structure to the County Parks Department is expected to take place in late May or early June.

Clearing the remaining brush and debris from the Park area has been started and should be completed by May. After that we will layout and mark the location of all the proposed Park structures.

The detention pond area is scheduled to be brush-hogged in mid April. This will allow us to layout the stairway to the parking lot, in accordance with George Baker's plans.

Committee members have been working closely with the Mendon Business Association, helping to expand last years "Mendon Days" into the "Mendon Arts Festival" which will be for the benefit of both the Park and the Community.

Volunteers are always needed, and very much appreciated. If you are interested in participating in any of the park development activities, please call Warren Wallace @ 624-5754.



Annual Meeting Scheduled for May 15

The Mendon Foundation's annual meeting is scheduled for Wed., May 15, 2002, 7:30 pm at the Mendon Town Hall, 16 West Main Street, Honeoye Falls. It is open to the public.

The highlight of the evening will be an update of the Foundation's recent activities, including: the receipt and use of Federal grant money to improve the Lehigh Valley Trail; update on the Sibleyville Nature Reserve; the status of the Mendon Station Park project; and, the Foundation's 10th Anniversary Celebration Festivities.

The Foundation has three board members up for reelection: Chris Carosa, Larry Hillebrandt and Wayne Gillman.

Chris is serves on the board's Capital Campaign Fundraising Committee, the Mendon Station Committee, and the Public Relations Committee.

Larry heads the Sibleyville Nature Reserve Committee and is currently working with landowners near the "Evelyn Lewis" 26-acre parcel that Dr. Lewis recently donated to the Foundation.

Wayne assists with fund-raising, is the Foundation's Treasurer, and also helps assess potential land donations. Each candidate is running for a three-year term as a Director At-Large

Wetlands Reconstruction Update

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service filed permits with the Army Corps of Engineers for the 12 acre wetlands reconstruction project at Gonfalon Farm at 888 Pittsford Mendon Center Rd.

The area was surveyed by the NRCS for pot-hole placement on April 9 and reconstruction of the wetlands will begin this summer.

With help from the Mendon Foundation, owners Tim Pryor and Ellen Hickory Smith made the decision two years ago to put the 12 acres under a permanent conservation easement with the federal Wetlands Reserve Program. The site has been designed by the government as a wood duck preserve, due to the site's unique features needed for wood duck habitat. (For more information on wood duck habitat, see the Mendon Foundation Newsletter from Autumn 2001).

The easement allows the federal government to monitor the site on a regular basis.

Part of the project includes constructing a boardwalk through part of the preserve. The Pryor-Smith family has offered the Honeoye Falls middle school and high school, as well as the Harley School the opportunity to come to the farm and use the site as an outdoor classroom for wetlands education.

All three schools responded positively to the offer. It will be a great opportunity for school children to see how former farmland can be rehabilitated back into a functioning wetland. They will also be able to monitor the progress over the years.

Unfortunately, the Wetlands Reserve Program was not funded or authorized for FY 2002, so no new applications for wetlands reconstruction can be accepted.

New and Renewing Members

The Mendon Foundation would like to thank the following people for their new or continuing support:

Charles & Marilyn Andolino Mr. & Mrs. James Brayer Chris & Betsy Carosa Harry & Joyce Cole Christopher & Kristen Cotton Laura Dustin Beverly French Scott Harter Douglas & MaryAnne Jones Elaine Koral Rev. James Lawlor Thomas & Darliene Lyons David & Luanne Mansfield James & Ruth Perrin John & Jane Sheret Gwenn Voelckers

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