

# PATHWAYS

VOL 12 NO.1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENDON FOUNDATION

SPRING 2005

A Member of the National Land Trust Alliance

[www.MendonFoundationInc.org](http://www.MendonFoundationInc.org)



*Photo by John Buck*

*Photo by John Buck*

## IN THIS ISSUE

Foundation Projects / Conservation Easement Legislation  
Native Tree & Shrub Sale / Earth Day Celebrations  
Recovering Oak Tree

# A Busy Year Ahead for the Foundation

## We Need Your Help

2005 is going to be a very busy year for the Foundation. The completion of the Lehigh Valley Trail, Development of the Trail Parks at Mendon Station and Rochester Junction, and land management on the Foundation's Open-Space properties, are all contributing to a bumper crop of projects for this year. As in the past, we need to ask for help, not only from our members, but from members of the community at large. How many of these projects are accomplished will depend on the response from YOU and YOU and YOU. Each of you is important. If there is a project of particular interest to you or your group, please contact one of the three Foundation Directors listed, to volunteer for and/or contribute financially to that project.

### TRAILS:

Dick Dehm 218-9966  
dsdehm@rochester.rr.com

### OPEN SPACE & GARDENING:

Arlene Cluff 624-3182  
ajcluff45@aol.com

### PARKS:

Warren Wallace 624-5754  
warrfoote@aol.com

## TRAIL PROJECTS

### Information Kiosks

The Mendon Foundation plans to build four of these units on the Trail, one each at Mendon Station Park, Rochester Junction, the Hamlet of Rush and at East River Road. The units consist of two 4'x4' double sided bulletin-board type signs and benches located under one roof. They will serve as the major information points on the Trail. One of the double sided signs will be used by the Monroe County Parks Dept. for its information, while the other will be used by the Mendon Foundation to post information about the Lehigh Valley Trail, adjacent and regional trails, points of interest and local resources. In addition to signage, the kiosks also incorpo-

rate two benches, creating a resting area at each of their respective locations. The Kiosk design and plans were donated by local architect George Baker. The location of the units and their builders are as follows:

Mendon Station ~ *Floeser Contracting*  
Rochester Junction ~ *Christoff Napp* (Eagle Scout Project)  
Rush Station  
East River Road

### Trail Benches

The Foundation will install seven wooden benches, which will be located approximately every mile and one quarter along the Trail, and be in addition to the Kiosk and park benches. The benches will provide resting spots for trail users.

### Maintenance Garage

The construction of a maintenance garage is planned for the Trail at Mendon Station. This 26'x 26' building is designed on a railroad theme and will serve as the storage facility for all trail and park maintenance equipment. The design work and plans have been donated by local Architect, George Baker.

W.of Rt 251 ~ *Corey Gates & Tim Schiefen*

### Clear Trail

This project involves clearing 500' on the sides of trail, E from Route 64, and planting the area with shrubs and trees per a landscape plan. (Plan to be developed.)

### Trail Map Posts

Over the summer the Foundation plans to build and install "you are here" map posts (with attached trail brochure holders) at the 6 trail parking lots.

Trail Parking Lots ~ *Warren Wallace*

## PARK PROJECTS

### Picnic Pavilion

Build and install a copper roof on the cupola.

Mendon Station ~ *John Eberhardt*

### Station Identification & Picnic Area

The objective of this project is to define the outline of the old RR Station, which was burned down in the 1970's, by erecting a low wooden wall. A portion of the interior space will house a picnic area; the balance will be groomed to highlight the existing trees. This development will provide a rest and relaxation area for trail users and a pleasant picnic area for the community, while bringing atten-

tion to the past importance of the area as a junction between the Rochester branch and the Main line of the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Rochester Junction ~ *Garrett Koch* (Eagle Scout Project.)

### Platform & Garden

In the Lehigh Valley RR's hay-day, the station master at Rochester Junction maintained a flower garden, which was built into the station platform, just east of the station. Later on, as the RR's fortunes waned, the garden was blacktopped over. The purpose of this project is to reestablish that garden, as it might have looked in the 1920s, and clear the surrounding platform area, repairing and leveling, where necessary and installing a bench. In conjunction with the station project above, this project will complete the restoration of the station area and bring attention to importance of the area as the junction between the Rochester branch line and the Lehigh Valley mainline.

### Switch Tower

The purpose of this project is to define the location of the Junction switching tower. It was the main control center for all train movement in the junction yard. Once the original footings are excavated, the area will be enclosed with a low wooden wall, similar to that built for the station. The interior will be leveled and covered with crushed stone. A very important part of this project will be to develop interpretive signage for the tower. Additionally, the adjacent electrical distribution box will need to be cleaned up, painted and identified. This is one of several projects at Rochester Junction, which will preserve the area's heritage for future generations.

### Small Miscellaneous Projects

There are several small projects at Mendon Station (some of which have already been started) that need to be done. They include:

- Building an 18" x 30' stone retaining wall along the trail.
- Completing the north-south stone walkway.
- Completing the ramp to the detention pond area.
- Filling-in and grassing over depressions in the park.
- Adding two more benches in the park.
- Refurbishing and installing a RR Crossing signal.

## GARDENING & DESIGN PROJECTS

### Groundcover

This spring we will be planting additional pachysandra plants on the hill, next to the

picnic table area at Mendon Station.

#### Stair Walkway Beds

This area was planted with native trees and shrubs and perennials in 2003. The project consists of spring and fall maintenance to include weeding, trimming, weedwacking of surrounding weeds, planting additional perennials and applying mulch.

#### Landscape design

Develop a landscape design plan focusing on the park area around the gazebo and picnic Table. This will be a long range plan and commencement of the landscaping will depend on contributions and/or grant money.

Mendon Station ~ *Federated Garden Club's, Landscape Design Consultant Group*

#### Reestablish Garden

Several years ago a perennial bed and several ornamental trees were planted at corner of route 251 and the trail (Little League) parking lot. This project would include redefining the size and shape of the garden, cleaning up, weeding, planting of additional perennials, trimming of ornamental trees and mulching.

#### Design Station Garden

Design a 1920's period garden for the station master's garden at Rochester Junction. (See Platform & Garden).

Rochester Junction ~ *Federated Garden Club's, Landscape Design Consultants*

## OPEN SPACES & LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

#### Sibleyville

Warm weather grasses were planted on part of this property in 2003. Work in this area consists of mowing the warm weather grass areas and weeds that surround their perimeter, as well as, the trails leading to the creek and around the drumlin.

#### Old Oak Tree

The old oak tree at the corner of Plains Road and 15A was trimmed in 2004. This project would include removing weeds and undergrowth around the base of the tree, preparing the soil and planting with groundcover to protect the base. Yearly maintenance of weeding and replanting is also needed. Would someone be interested in adopting a 150+ year old tree?

**Pittsford-Mendon Center Road Property**  
This property requires woodland clearing and

cleaning up brush areas in three to four sessions per year.

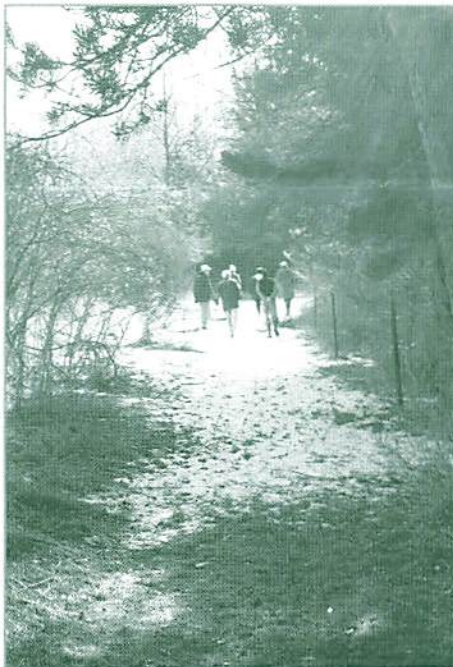
**Pittsford-Mendon Center Road Property ~ Boy Scout Troop #45 (has adopted this property)**

#### Taylor Road Property

A warm weather grass program (WHIP) will commence on this property in the spring. The project for this property would include clearing the creek of dead and fallen tree branches, clean up of the wooded area, repairing of the foot bridge over the creek, mowing the field in preparation for the grass planting, as well as clean up, and mowing of weeds around the perimeter of the property.

#### Eckler Road Property

A warm weather grass program (WHIP) will start this spring on the open areas of this property. The open areas need to be cleared of underbrush and have the weeds mowed in preparation for the planting of warm weather grasses.



*Members of the Open Space committee walk the Lewis property.*

IF YOU OR YOUR GROUP IS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE ABOVE PROJECTS, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE DIRECTORS LISTED ABOVE. ANY TIME OR FUNDS THAT YOU WOULD DONATE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. VOLUNTEERING IS A GREAT WAY TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY, WITH A GIFT THAT WILL LAST FOR GENERATIONS.

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## CONSERVATION EASEMENT DEDUCTIONS & LAND DONATIONS UNDER ATTACK: Join the Fight to Stop the Proposals

On January 27, 2005, a report released by the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation shocked the land trust community by proposing major decreases in the federal tax deductions for conservation easements, land donations and bargain sales. The proposal, if adopted, would end the work of the Mendon Foundation as we know it.

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) and the Mendon Foundation are engaged in a vigorous response, working with a coalition of national conservation leaders and allies. But to succeed, we need the help of every friend, Foundation member and board member.

### The New Tax Proposals

The Joint Committee has proposed that deductions for conservation easements be limited to 33% of appraised value. No deduction will be allowed for the donation of an easement on land used for a personal residence.

The Committee also proposes changing the deductions associated with donations or bargain sales of land by limiting such donations to the owner's "basis"-that is, the cost of the land plus any capital improvements made over the years.

### The Impact on Land Trusts

If enacted, these proposals would severely set back our conservation work. Saving land is often the primary motivation for donating a conservation easement or land donation. Having tax deductions enable many more people to donate since most of this country's open space is privately owned.

### Please Help Today

You must act today, because our organization depends on the tax incentives the Joint Committee on taxation has attacked. Letters to our US Senator on the Finance Committee asking him to help in fighting these proposals are essential. Our local opinion does count. Draft letters and more information-including how to email or write our elected officials are on the LTA website at [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org). Go to the Congressional Action Center Section .. Tools for Action. Contact Senator Charles Schumer through

Joe Hamm, Regional Director  
100 State St. Room 3040  
Rochester, NY 14614  
Phone: 585-263-5866  
Fax: 585-263-3173  
E-mail: <http://schumer.senate.gov/webform.html>

Rep. Tom Reynolds (Ways & Means Committee) [www.house.gov/writerep.html](http://www.house.gov/writerep.html)  
1577 W Ridge Road, Rochester NY 14615

Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr. [www.house.gov/writerrep.html](http://www.house.gov/writerrep.html)  
32 Denison Parkway West, Corning NY 14830

For help with what to write or for sample letters, please contact John P Schaefer, 582-3025

You can also make a gift to the Mendon Foundation to turn back these harmful changes in tax law and instead maintain momentum on positive reforms for land trusts.

Mendon Foundation, Inc.  
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Mendon, NY 14506-0231

For more information, go to <http://www.lta.org/publicpolicy/ppc.htm>.



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In this time of rapid change, the Mendon Foundation enjoys tremendous opportunities to make long lasting improvements in the quality of life in our community. At the same time, however, we are faced on many fronts with threats to our vision and goals.

## The good news & the bad news...

The good news is that Mendon still has vast areas of agricultural land, horse farms, forests, wetlands and scenic vistas along our country roads and highways. More importantly, an ever increasing number of citizens, educators and local governmental officials share our vision of preserving the natural beauty and vitality of this area and of teaching our youth about the environment and the lasting advantages it offers to them for their physical and emotional health and well being. We have before us extraordinary opportunities to acquire and preserve open spaces that will last for centuries!


On the other hand, we are confronted by some governmental agencies on the national level that focus more on short term economic issues than on lasting goals of land preservation. Specifically, the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation (CJCT) has recently recommended slashing tax deductions for donations of land for conservation uses. We believe such a draconian measure would drastically curtail our goal for acquiring more open space. In an effort to address the excesses that have occurred in some areas, the CJCT has proposed a simple solution to a problem that needs to be addressed in measured ways.

As land trusts have matured and the number of acres of land under their care have grown, the need for

funding the costs of stewardship and the enlisting and training of volunteers has likewise increased. We must ensure the viability of our organization to protect the lands for years ahead.

The Mendon Foundation is currently studying and developing ways to implement the new Land Trust Standards and Practices of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) of which our foundation is a sponsor member. LTA supports the operations of about 1,500 of our nation's nonprofit land trust organizations and last year adopted new standards organized into twelve practice areas. Among the goals to be achieved is "to ensure that all land trusts operate effectively and that their conservation efforts are lasting." We are being challenged to look inward, assess our strengths and weaknesses, and undertake the steps needed to strengthen our organization.

It is obvious that we need to increase the number of supporting members as well as to enlist the support of volunteers to assist with the work of our organization, both in administrative work and on field projects. Keep in mind that the Mendon Foundation has no paid staff. All of our work is carried out by dedicated volunteers!



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# NATIVE TREE & SHRUB SALE

The Open Space, Land Acquisition and Stewardship Committee is promoting a native tree and shrub sale. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Mendon Foundation's preservation and conservation of open space, land acquisition, conservation easement and stewardship programs. Here is a perfect way to support the Mendon Foundation, preserving open space while enhancing your property with native species. Natural landscaping and woodland gardening is a way for you to protect your backyard environment and improve wildlife habitat. The trees and shrubs are native to the region and will survive and thrive in natural areas. Seedlings in 5x8" tree bands are 2 to 3 year old transplants, measuring from 12 to 36 inches.

**Prices: All 5x8" pots - 1 plant for \$12.00 plus \$.50 deposit for each container**

*Orders paid by check made payable to:*

MENDON FOUNDATION

*Send to:*

Mendon Foundation  
P.O. Box 231  
Mendon, NY 14506-0231

Deadline is May 18, 2005. Anyone who becomes a new or renewing member or orders before May 1, 2005 will receive A CHOICE OF A FREE OAK TREE OF YOUR CHOICE, MENDON FOUNDATION WATER BOTTLE OR 2005 RAFFLE TICKET.

Pick-up will be Saturday, May 21, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Sunday, May 23, from 12:00 NOON to 3:00 PM at 265 Quaker Meeting House Rd., Honeoye Falls. If you need to make other arrangements for pick up, please contact Arlene Cluff @624-3182; EMAIL:AJCLUFF45@AOL.CO M. If you wish a refund on your containers, arrangements will be

## Plant List and Order Form

\* Deer Resistant

TREES (LARGE SHADE)	SIZE	UNIT PRICE	# OF PLANTS	FINAL PRICE
Red Oak	5x8"	\$12.00		
Burr Oak	5x8"	\$12.00		
Black Cherry	5x8"	\$12.00		
Sugar Maple	5x8"	\$12.00		
Swamp White Oak	5x8"	\$12.00		
Paper Birch *	5x8"	\$12.00		
<b>CONIFERS</b>				
Canadian Hemlock	5x8"	\$12.00		
Bald Cypress	5x8"	\$12.00		
Blue Spruce *	5x8"	\$12.00		
Norway Spruce *	5x8"	\$12.00		
<b>SHRUBS</b>				
Fragrant Sumac *	5x8"	\$12.00		
Red Chokeberry	5x8"	\$12.00		
<b>FLOWERING TREES</b>				
Serviceberry	5x8"	\$12.00		
Pagoda Dogwood	5x8"	\$12.00		
Canadian Red Chokecherry	5x8"	\$12.00		
Flowering Dogwood	5x8"	\$12.00		
Washington Hawthorn	5x8"	\$12.00		

made at pickup. Free professional landscape consultation for orders over \$100.00 upon request.

If you do not wish to purchase plants for your property, contributions for shrubs will be accepted. The Mendon Foundation's Mendon Station Park and Lehigh Valley Trail is presently developing a natural habitat for wildlife. Various native trees and shrubs will be planted in the park and along the trail. Your donation will

be used for the purchase of the plants.

PLEASE NOTE: 50% OF YOUR PURCHASE MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. A SIGNED LETTER STATING YOUR TAX DEDUCTION FROM THE TREASURER OF THE MENDON FOUNDATION WILL BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR ORDER. MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS WITHOUT AN ORDER AND MEMBERSHIPS ARE A 100% TAX DEDUCTION.



Photo by John Buck

**ORDER FORM** (Send in with plant form)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL # OF PLANTS: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PRICE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK #: \_\_\_\_\_ TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION: \_\_\_\_\_

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# 1ST ANNUAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 23, 2005

12 NOON TO 4 PM

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The Mendon Foundation's Environmental Education Committee is sponsoring the celebration of Earth Day at the Sibleyville Nature Reserve. All the family is invited to this exciting event.

" Learn about Honeoye Creek's ecosystem and water quality by assisting Water Watch Program staff taking water samples, conducting tests and evaluating the water system. **Presented by: Robin Long.**

" Learn about and view the warm weather grasses planted as part of the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). **Presented by David Kitchie**, biologist with the USDA (United States Dept. of Agriculture) and NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service)

" Discover the beauty of our earth through natural landscaping and habitat planting. Presented by: **James Engel**, nurseryman and native New York plant specialist

" Take a guided walk through the woods and learn to identify trees and understand their importance in our environment with **Dr. Dan Marion and James Atwater**

" Take a guided walk through the woods and grasslands learning to identify birds by their songs and appearance. Led by **John Hauber**, retired DEC Field Representative.

The Father of Earth Day was John McConnell. Earth Day was proclaimed by The United Nations on March 21, 1971 for all time as an annual event to deepen reverence and care for life on our planet. John McConnell stated; "What could be more appropriate than the first moment of spring, when day and night are equal around the world and hearts and minds can join together with thoughts of harmony and Earth's rejuvenation."

Bring the entire family for a fun filled, educational afternoon  
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# MANOR SCHOOL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 15  
9AM to 12 NOON

Students of the Manor School in conjunction with the Mendon Foundation's Education Committee are hosting an Earth Day Celebration at the Manor School. Honeoye Falls - Lima High School students and 6th grade Harley School students and visiting naturalists will lead the Manor School students in the following activities:

- + Spring clean up of littered areas around the Honeoye Falls - Lima campus
- + Planting of trees and shrubs on the Honeoye Falls - Lima High School campus
- + Participation in a nature walk on school property or attend a seminar

Michael Fallon, Manor School teacher will be happy to answer questions @ 233-3349 or e-mail @ [michael\\_fallon@hflcsd.org](mailto:michael_fallon@hflcsd.org)

Visitors please register at the Main Office of the Manor School



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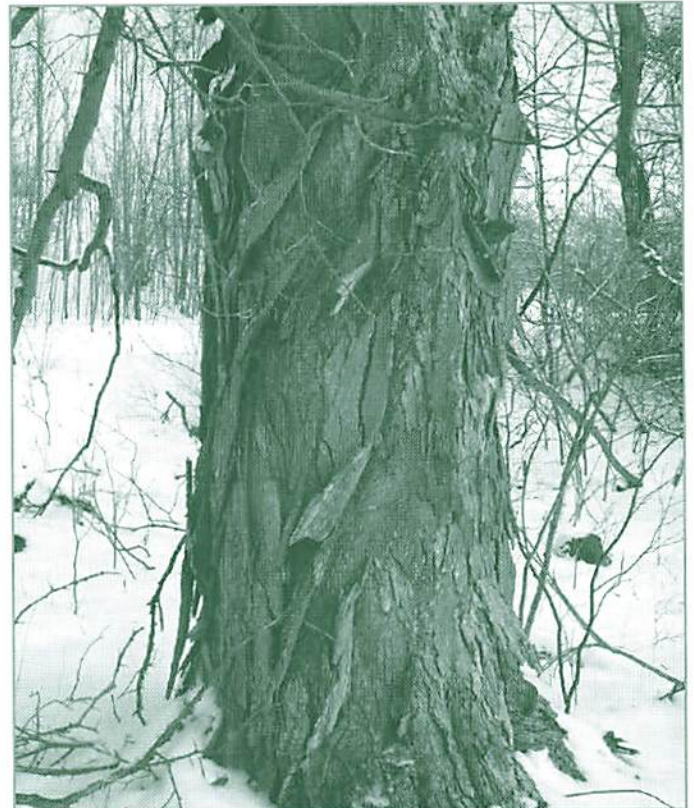
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Admiring a magnificent pin oak and a shagbark hickory tree at Sibleyville.

Photos by John Schaefer



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# Our favorite tree is recovering!

Dr. Dan Marion  
Professor of Tree and Ornamental  
Plant Health  
at SUNY Finger Lakes College.

Spring is upon us...and with that the massive energy it takes for a tree to "pump" water and make new foliage growth. If we could only harvest this tree energy, our oil problems would be solved overnight!

If a tree doesn't have good stores of energy entering the Spring, it can rapidly succumb to pre-existing ailments. And so it is with the stately white oak (*Quercus alba*) in Mendon on the corner of Plains Road and Rt 15A. This tree has been in a state of degeneration, due to a host of environmental weakening agents as well as infectious agents acting together to bring about the demise of the tree.

A partial list of factors affecting this tree is elevated levels of sodium road salt, compaction and severance of roots, contaminants, and poorly supportive soils. We assign specific weights to each of these component concerns and administer care primarily to the root systems and micro excise invaded or damaged roots or trunk regions. The foliage itself is currently not in need of treatment. The goal for this specimen tree is to reduce the rate of deterioration and to preserve.

We are pleased to report there is an increase in fine root development, which is critical for water and nutrient uptake. Chlorophyll levels have stopped decreasing. We don't want more leaves...we want more chlorophyll-packed leaves.

The 2004 annual growth increment (ring) for this tree is strongly improved, since the two earlier rings prior to onset of care were inadequate. In some spots along the trunk there was no conducting tissue at all and this problem is to be addressed. Carbohydrate levels, a measure of energy reserves, shows a positive upward trend from the depleted levels noted in 2000-2002. This is most encouraging. In short, this tree is taking on a more robust quality and crown dying is diminishing. We should keep in mind that crown growth is not the objective in this case...it is the protection of vital tissues. We're on the road to health and preservation.



# 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 a year and paid for through the generous support of our advertisers.

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

*www.MendonFoundationInc.org*

### **Board of Directors:**

Carl Foss, President: 624-1634

John Buck: 624-5525	Dr. Brian Eder: 624-2568
Chris Carosa: 624-1758	John Farrell: 624-5914
Arlene Cluff: 624-3182	Larry Hillbrandt: 624-2445
Dick Dehm: 624-4466	Warren Wallace: 624-5754
Eileen Dobroski: 624-2139	John Schaefer 582-3025

### OUR VISION STATEMENT

We believe in preservation.  
 We believe in recreation.  
 We believe in education.  
 We believe in community stewardship.

### OUR PURPOSE

To improve the quality of life in our community.

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. Our phone: **585-624-8730**

## **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

### **Sign me up!**

- Senior/Student \$20
- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
- Business \$50
- Sponsor \$100
- Sustainer \$250
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1000

### **I want to volunteer.**

*My interests are:*

- Lehigh Valley Trail
- Mendon Station Park
- Community Playground
- Mendon Hamlet
- Fundraising
- Communications
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