

# PATHWAYS

VOL 13 NO 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENDON FOUNDATION

SPRING 2006

A Member of the National Land Trust Alliance

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



*Photo by John Buck*

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## An open letter to the community.

The Mendon Foundation is your local, charitable Land Trust. Being an all volunteer organization, we rely heavily on community involvement to carry out our preservation, recreational and educational activities.

While many of our members are active volunteers, the broad scope of our activities involves many volunteers and donations from the community at large.

### 2005 Highlights



### Preservation

We planted 6 acres of warm weather grasses at our Taylor Rd. property under the federal Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Volunteers cut 20 acres of grass at Sibleyville Nature Reserve and prepared 8 acres for planting at the Eckler Road property.

Other volunteers completed a major refurbishing of the Mendon Community Playground. Boy Scouts from Rochester's Troop 45 held 3 campouts at our Mendon Center Rd. property, where they cleared brush and fallen trees.

The Foundation applied, and was accepted into the NYS Forest Land Enhancement Program and the NYS DEC has developed a detailed management program for some of our wooded areas.

### Recreation

Over 60 Cub Scouts and parents, from Pack 105, turned out to help clear 500' of Trail side brush. More than 15 local volunteers have helped build a trail maintenance garage at the Route 251 parking area.



As his Eagle Scout Project, Christoph Napp of Troop 10 in Honeoye Falls built an Information Kiosk on the Lehigh Valley Trail at Rochester Junction. 24 Scouts and parents participated in the project for a total of 400 hours.

Garrett Koek of Troop 10, Honeoye Falls, built a knee-wall outlining the RR Depot and created a picnic area on the Trail at Rochester Junction as his Eagle Scout Project. 42 scouts and parents participated for a total of 337 hours. 26 University of Rochester students cleared brush at Mendon Station and assisted Jin Whritenor, scouts and parents from Troop 10, and neighbors from adjoining properties, in removing debris from Irondequoit Creek at our Taylor Rd. property.

### Education

The Foundation sponsored Earth Day at the Honeoye Falls-Lima Manor School, where nearly 400 students participated in various projects.

We also held an Earth Day event at Sibleyville Nature Reserve, where pure water, tree, bird and biology

experts conducted tours and taught 40+ persons about the environment, our 200+ year old Oak Tree and native wild grasses.

The Foundation operated booths at the Honeoye Falls Festival, the Mendon Fireman's Carnival, and the Mendon Arts Festival where we educated people about the Lehigh Valley Trail, recruited volunteers, and raised much needed funds by selling raffle tickets and native plants.

### Donations

We have received a gift of an original Lehigh Valley railroad baggage cart from Mr. & Mrs. Harold Moffitt. The cart was originally used at Rochester Junction and will be displayed there beginning this summer.

Because of several generous cash donations, the Foundation was able to purchase a John Deere Gator for use in the maintenance and inspections of the Lehigh Valley Trail and our other six properties.

The Foundation received a gift from Regional Gravel Products Inc, of 26 acres of land, located at the western end of the Lehigh Valley Trail. The donated land was crafted in such a way as to allow the Foundation to extend the trail another six tenths of a mile to River Rd.

*Chris Carosa, Brad Templeton, and Dan McCarthy discuss the impending youth chess tournament April 22 from 9AM-1PM at the Manor School. The tournament is possible due to a grant from Chris Carosa and if you are interested in donating money to support this activity, please call Chris at 624- 3150.*



A generous gift from Carosa, Stanton & DePaolo Asset Management, LLC, made possible the printing of 20,000 Lehigh Valley Trail color brochures.



John Buck donated the pictures and design work for the "Mendon Note Cards" which the Foundation is now selling to raise additional funds. A donation of funds for materials, along with the volunteering of a local builder, will allow us to construct an information kiosk at Mendon Station in the Hamlet of Mendon, this spring.

### New Ongoing Projects

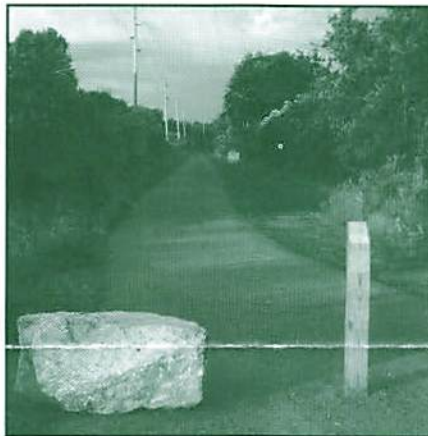
We are working with the Town of Mendon to assist in the development of the Town's Great Bend Park and its connection to the Lehigh Valley Trail at Rochester Junction.

The Foundation's intent to extend the Lehigh Valley Trail to River Rd. in Livingston County has brought about a joining of Livingston County, the Town of Caledonia, the Village of Caledonia, and Foundation in making a grant proposal to the Genesee Transportation Council, to fund a feasibility study for extending the Trail from the Genesee Greenway all the way to the Village of Caledonia.

We have joined with the Genesee Finger Lakes Planning Council, Monroe County, and the Village of Honeoye Falls, as co-applicants in the Town of Rush's Quality Communities grant application, which proposes to develop a strategic plan for the Hamlet of Rush and the

Honeoye Creek Greenway. We are also working with the Honeoye Falls-Lima School District to develop a cross-country running trail at Sibleyville Nature Reserve. The Foundation applied for a NYS Parks grant, to develop trails, parking and an observation pavilion at the Reserve.

The Foundation formed a Rochester Junction Committee, made up of local Historians and RR buffs, to develop and oversee the historical presentation of the Junction.



Lastly, the Foundation is working with eight prominent, local equestrians, who volunteered to help develop the equestrian portion of the Lehigh Valley Trail.

As you can see from the above, we could not possibly accomplish so much without the help of a great many people, who have made donations or given generously of their time and talent working on the various projects and committees.

It is with the deepest sense of appreciation that we at the Mendon Foundation thank each and every one of you for helping make 2005 a really great year.

Sincerely,  
Carl Foss, President

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# It's Raffle Time!



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# EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS 2006

The Mendon Foundation is sponsoring their second annual Earthday Celebration with two separate events scheduled this year. The first event will be held at the Sibleyville Nature Reserve on April 22; and the second event will be held at the Honeoye Falls Lima School District's Manor and Middle Schools on April 28.

The schools' celebrations scheduled activities include: planting a second habitat garden with Jim Engel; Robin Long from The Harley School and her environmental studies class will provide several hands on displays illustrating water quality; wildlife biologist, John Hauber will offer a slide show highlighting local wildlife; Angelo Tiberio will present a discussion on herbs and medicinal uses of plants; Dan Marion and Jim Attwater will present a guided walking tour on identifying trees; biologist, Linda Driscoll will present an interactive display on water insects; Finger Lakes Community College professor, Kim Babcock will provide a presentation on bears; Margo Bauer from Cornell Cooperative Extension will provide a presentation on recycling; school property clean up is sponsored by Delta Labs and Friendly's Restaurants.



High School students will also be involved through Harold Coogan's photography class documenting the event on film, Kim Agar's environmental studies class will be teaming with younger students to help plant the garden, Glenn Cumming's students will be helping clean up the school grounds and art classes will create posters promoting Earth Day to be displayed in the school buildings and in local businesses.

The Mendon Foundation will again gift each Manor School student with a seedling to take home and plant together with their parents. This year the seedling will be a Silky Dogwood shrub. The seedlings are purchased from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Nursery in bulk quantities. Several volunteers will separate each seedling and place it in individual bags with soil and in order for them to be given to each student. Last year pine tree seedlings were given to students.

The Sibleyville Nature Reserve event is scheduled for April 22 and open to the community. The Sibleyville Nature Reserve is owned by the Mendon Foundation and is located at the corner of Plains Road and Route 15A. Activities celebrating Earthday will include: presentation of native landscaping and habitat planting, Honeoye Creek's ecosystem, bird identification, native grass program, tree identification, Water Watch volunteer program and Native American culture.

The Earthday events described at the School and Sibleyville all offer opportunities for individuals to become involved either as participants or volunteers or both. If you've been wanting to volunteer but not known how to get involved this could be the right opportunity at the right time. Working with children and nature are two of life's best opportunities for feeling good about one's efforts. If you are interested in helping please call Karen Waldron-Johnson at 585-749-9698 to find out more.



COME JOIN US FOR THE

# LEHIGH VALLEY TRAIL BIKE RIDE

In Celebration of

**National Trails Day**



June 3, 2006

Inquiries please call  
John Farrell @ 233-0094.

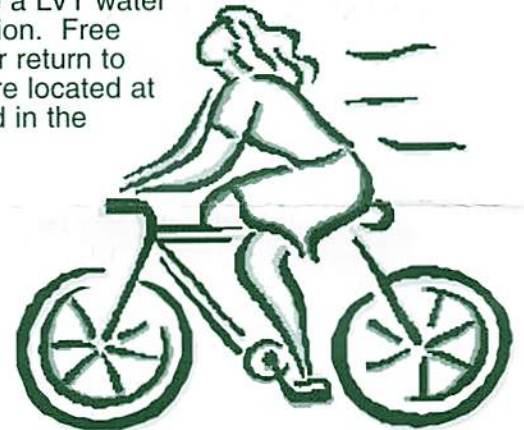
**WHO:** You, your biking friends & families, riding clubs

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 3rd, 8AM start.  
Registration begins at 7:30 AM. FREE ADMISSION!

**WHERE:** Rt 251 East (Rush Mendon Rd) in the hamlet of Mendon (behind the Mendon Presbyterian Church). FREE parking at Mendon Station Park, Little League ball field on Rt. 251, & behind Assembly Drive office buildings. Rest room facilities near the park.

**WHY:** To celebrate this new trail and enjoy the fresh air, biking, friendships and support the upkeep of the trail.

Beginning in the Mendon Station Park (behind the Mendon Presbyterian Church) the organized ride will travel west to the Genesee Greenway trail and return to Mendon. Participants will receive a LVT water bottle for a small donation. Free refreshments upon your return to Mendon. Rest stops are located at Rochester Junction and in the Village of Rush.



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## JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING May 23 6 PM Hopkins Lodge, Mendon Ponds Park

The public is invited to join the Mendon Foundation for an informative annual meeting, which will feature a slide show about local flora and fauna. This presentation will be educational for all attendees and will be a prelude to a trail walk in the park, if time allows.

At 6 PM, subs, chips and sodas will be served as we get acquainted. Other items on the agenda include a brief report on the election of directors, and a special recognition of several of the 600 volunteers who helped the Mendon Foundation in 2005.



Copies of our 2005 financial report will be available.

# NATIVE TREE & SHRUB SALE

Here is a perfect way to support the Mendon Foundation, preserving open space while enhancing your property with native species. 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  
P.O. Box 231  
Mendon, NY 14506-0231

Deadline is May 28, 2006. Anyone who becomes a new or renewing member or orders before May 1, 2005 will receive: A FREE TREE OF YOUR CHOICE OR A 2006 MENDON FOUNDATION RAFFLE TICKET.

Pick-up will be at the Mendon Fireman's Carnival on Mendon-Ionia Road on Thursday, June 1 and Friday, June 2 after 5 PM, and Saturday, June 3, after 12 Noon. If you need to make other arrangements for pick up, please contact Arlene Cluff @624-3182; E-MAIL: [AJCLUFF45@AOL.COM](mailto:AJCLUFF45@AOL.COM). If you wish a refund on your containers, arrangements will be 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. THE MENDON FOUNDATION THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION IN PRESERVING THE OPEN SPACES OF MENDON

## Plant List and Order Form

\* Deer Resistant

TREES	SIZE	UNIT PRICE	# of PLANTS	FINAL PRICE
Red Oak	5x8"	\$12.50		
Sweet Gum	5x8"	\$12.50		
Sugar Maple	5x8"	\$12.50		
Swamp White Oak	5x8"	\$12.50		
Paper Birch *	5x8"	\$12.50		
Hop Hornbeam	5x8"	\$12.50		
<b>CONIFERS</b>				
White Pine	5x8"	\$12.50		
Canadian Hemlock	5x8"	\$12.50		
Norway Spruce *	5x8"	\$12.50		
White Spruce	5x8"	\$12.50		
<b>SHRUBS</b>				
Red Chokeberry	5x8"	\$12.50		
Fragrant Sumac	5x8"	\$12.50		
Winterberry	5x8"	\$12.50		
Summer Sweet*	5x8"	\$12.50		
Spice Bush*	5x8"	\$12.50		
Silky Dogwood	5x8"	\$12.50		
Nanking Cherry	5x8"	\$12.50		
<b>FLOWERING TREES</b>				
Pagoda Dogwood	5x8"	\$12.50		
Canadian Red Chokecherry	5x8"	\$12.50		
<b>TOTALS</b>				

### PLANT ORDER FORM

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

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

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

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

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## Completion of LVT's Northern Extension nears

At a recent meeting with the County, the Foundation was advised that the Water Authority, which has been laying a new water main under the southern half of the extension and at Rochester Junction, will be finished no later than June 4. Steve King, who is responsible for the Trail construction, said that he plans to start construction in mid May and, subject to weather, be finished by the end of June.

It was agreed that restoring the Junction area to its preconstruction condition should be a priority for the Water Authority. Steve indicated that he would use the cinders, presently stored along the north side of the Depot platform first, thereby clearing that area as quickly as possible.

We have also been advised by Bud Snyder, President of the Henrietta Foundation, that they expect the last portion of their part of the Northern Extension to be completed this spring.

This will create the first major trail loop in the Region. (Normally trails run from point "A" to point "B" and users must retrace their route to return to their point of origin.) With the completion of the Northern Extension it will be possible to go on a circular route of completed trails for approximately 28 miles without having to backtrack. The route will include:  
The Northern Extension of the Lehigh Valley Trail  
The Erie Canalway Trail  
The Genesee Greenway  
The Lehigh Valley Trail

We are presently anticipating having a **GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION** for both the completion of the Northern Extension and the opening of the First Circular Trail in the Genesee Region, some time in the latter part of July. Look for more information on our website.



## Lehigh Valley Trail Status

The obligation of the Mendon Foundation, based on our contract with Monroe County, is to play a major role in the development of the Trail and then to be responsible for its maintenance. We have received numerous "thank you's" and expressions of pleasure from Trail users. There have also been several complaints from hikers and bikers about the Trail surface damage caused by horse traffic. Some report having fallen as a result of the "rough" Trail surface.

From the beginning, over 12 years ago, those of us who planned the Trail felt that there was a great opportunity to provide a unique, multipurpose, dual Trail system which would serve all of the various needs of our community. This type of side by side Trail design is not widely used and in most cases the equestrian usage is physically separated from the pedestrian usage. In our case, the space was available to construct two side by side trails and it was much more economical to do so. However, to work well, this approach requires understanding, cooperation and adherence to the rules of operation by all who use the Trail. It is particularly important at this stage of trail development, as we continue to work on the problems that still exist.

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The Trail was graded and seeded during construction but the South side, intended for equestrian use, still contains a lot of gravel, stones and rocks in many sections. Unfortunately, several areas turned out to be unsatisfactory for use by horses. As the grass and weeds return to the South side and shoulder areas, conditions should improve and become more suitable for equestrian use. It is apparent, however, that many sections will require significant effort—perhaps additional grading, more fill and a new surface.

Although the Trail was dedicated in the fall of 2004 and is open for public use, the equestrian side is not completed. Nevertheless, it is important that all users adhere to the operating rules. Since Monroe County own the property, County Law and the County Parks Department rules apply. Signs are clearly posted, requesting that horses be kept on the south side and off the stone dust path which is for pedestrian use, i.e., hikers, bikers, runners, etc. The stone dust makes a good, firm, smooth surface but it will not withstand the heavy, sharp horse hoofs, particularly when wet.

#### Two additional points:

1. The funds used to build the Trail resulted from being awarded a 1.3 million dollar Federal grant. We are therefore obligated to meet many Federal and NY State requirements. One which applies is the requirement to construct a trail which is handicapped accessible with a smooth, firm, wheelchair compatible surface.

2. National Trail usage statistics indicates that pedestrian usage will be greater than 95% of the total usage. We have observed a similar pattern in the first year of our operation.

For all of the above reasons, we believe that keeping the pedestrian stone dust trail surface in top-notch condition should be our highest priority and we hope that all will understand.

As stated, the equestrian trail section requires considerably more effort to make it satisfactory for its intended purpose. We are working to correct the situation and a volunteer committee of equestrian users is addressing the problem. Trail surveys have been conducted and several surface improvement approaches including sod, sand, stone dust and wood mulch have been suggested. Opinions vary as to the preferred surface. Unfortunately, at the present time there are no funds available for this purpose, so any approach must consider and include this fact.

A very rough, preliminary estimate tells us that it would cost at least \$10,000 per mile to remove the existing gravel and rock and apply a new surface of sand or dirt. We estimate the need to upgrade approximately 4 miles in Mendon. Even more will be required in Rush. In May of 2005, the committee arranged for a truck and driver (both donated) to deliver several loads of donated wood mulch to the Trail. They then spread the mulch and put in place several test strips for evaluation. Feedback from equestrians has been favorable—the price is right and although there are disadvantages, we are continuing this approach. Several more loads of mulch have recently been donated and delivered to sites in Mendon and will be spread when the weather improves.

Success and timing of this effort will depend on continued donations, the willingness of volunteers and the availability of funds. Your suggestions are certainly welcome, as well as any kind of donations or volunteer effort you might consider. Please contact Dick Dehm at 218-9966 or Warren Wallace at 624-5754.

Success of the multi-trail approach will in the long run, depend upon the cooperation and patience of all users working together. We remain confident that, with time, this will be the case and a wonderful new resource will be available for our community!



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## Scouts sign up for Lehigh Valley Trail projects By Warren Wallace

Last year scouts did 3 trail projects. I am very pleased to be able to report that, this year, scouts have already signed up to do 5 Trail related projects. They are:

**Cub Scout Pack 105** ~ Clear stones and brush along the Trail at Mendon Station.

**Liam Dooley, Troop 10, Eagle Project** ~ Build a 30' bridge connecting the Trail and Great Bend Park.

**Evan Schmidt, Troop 10, Eagle Project** ~ Lay 60' of Railroad Track at Mendon Station.



The knee wall at Rochester Junction built by Garrett Koek and 42 others required 337 man hours to construct.

**Ethan Gardner, Troop 10, Eagle Project** ~ Build knee-wall at site of Interlocking Tower and refurbish electrical Distribution box at Rochester Junction.

**Ethan Whritenor, Troop 10, Eagle Project** ~ Build six benches on the Trail and clear trailside trees and brush at seven locations.

**Dan Smith, Troop 10, Eagle Project** ~ Remove cement cover and reconstruct the Depot garden at Rochester Junction.

Over the last 3 years it has been my good fortune to work with scouts on 6 trail projects. Their organization, enthusiasm and hard work, make it a pleasure to work with these dedicated young men.

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

### Board of Directors:

Carl Foss, President: 624-1634

John Buck: 624-5525	John Farrell: 624-5914
Chris Carosa: 624-1758	Steve Richards
Arlene Cluff: 624-3182	John Schaefer 582-3025
Dick Dehm: 624-4466	Warren Wallace: 624-5754

### 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
  - Open Space/Preservation

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# Mendon Note Cards

*The Mendon Foundation is excited to be able to offer these beautiful and personal Mendon note cards. The cards are printed in full color on bright white cover stock and were created by Mendon Foundation board member John Buck. Each Town of Mendon image has been digitally enhanced to have a "painterly" effect. Each \$20 gift box contains 15 cards and envelopes. And the best part...the proceeds benefit the Lehigh Valley Trail and other Mendon Foundation projects. Please look for the cards in the following retail stores:*

### MENDON

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- Mendon Liquor*
- Onnie's Closet*
- Touch of Gold*
- Changes Everything*
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- Flower Mill*
- The Write Book & Gift Shop*



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Marion Young,  
Pinehurst Resident

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