

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

# PATHWAYS

VOL 14 NO 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENDON FOUNDATION

FALL 2007

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## Mendon Station Festival Poster Contest Winner!

This winning entry, by **Victoria Shorey**, and others will be on display at the Mendon Station Festival.

### Inside:

MENDON PONDS PARK • HFL GRANT ENDOWMENT FUND EXPANDS • LVT NEWS • THE TOUR DE LVT • BIRDWALK • GIRL SCOUT WILDFLOWER PROJECT • MENDON STATION FESTIVAL • 2ND ANNUAL BIRDWALK



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# Mendon Ponds Park

(Second in a series of three articles) By Diane C. Ham, Mendon Town Historian



Some time after the glacier receded in the Mendon Ponds Park area came a creature called man. Not all at once or of one variety, but in widely separated waves of immigration. When the first white men came a little over 300 years ago, they found the Mendon Ponds area a hunting ground for the Seneca nation of the Iroquois. But all around them were unmistakable signs of occupation long before, by people of an unknown age and origin. The Mendon Ponds area seems to have always been kept by the aborigines as a hunting preserve. There are traces of hunting camps and temporary village sites, but the more permanent homes of the early occupants of this region were grouped around the hill country to the south with well defined trails leading straight to the northern gateway of the Genesee country at Indian Landing.

According to Dr. Arthur Parker, expert on Indian History, there is one Indian trail still in evidence in the area. This trail is on top of the ridge of hills running north and south through the old Hopkins' Farm, just west of Hundred Acre Pond. The esker, or ridge, recedes sharply,

leaving only a narrow surface for a path. The ancient trail is still plainly seen and is worn about two feet into the soil. It runs over the ridge to a point overlooking both Deep Pond and Hundred Acre Pond, and ascends the hill, skirts the swamp, and comes out on Clover Street. A second trail, more deeply worn in places, diverges eastward and runs to the cove at the end of the big pond. Along

this trail, one finds ample evidence of ancient campfires and Indian occupation. Professor Fairchild said in his recommendation to name the Mendon Ponds area a park, "The Mendon Pond Trail is the best, if not the only, example of a surviving Indian trail in the vicinity of Rochester."

The first white settler of the area in 1811 was Joshua Lillie, on a site located near the present intersection of Wilmarth and Canfield Roads. Mr. Lillie was born in 1771. He came to Mendon about 1800, cleared his land and resided there. It is said that he planted the first wheat crop in Western New York after having traveled many miles on horseback to procure the seed. Upon the death of his young daughter, a cemetery was laid out, a rod square, on his land and four apple trees were planted by Joshua Lillie--one in each corner of the plot. This was to be the family cemetery. In 1864, Mr. Lillie was laid to rest there also.

Other settlers such as Jared Hopkins, Stewart Canfield and Jeremiah Stewart soon followed Joshua Lillie. Many of the park roads and features

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including Canfield Road, Hopkins Point, Kennedy's Bog, Stewart Lodge and Wilmarth Road are named for the early pioneers who settled in the park. These early pioneers cleared the oak-hickory forests to produce potash, then cultivated the land or used it for pasture. The area was particularly noted for apple and cider production.

About 1825, Martin Davis, Daniel Russell, Isaac Ewer, Nathaniel Russell, George West, John Allen, James Whippo, and others brought their families to Mendon Center and the Mendon Ponds area and purchased farms. They organized a "Friends" meeting (Quakers), holding their meetings in a log house on the farm later owned by H. T. Lord. They met here for a few years, and in 1833 built a house of worship just north of the Quaker Burying Ground near the corner of Quaker Meetinghouse and Rush-Mendon Roads.

The Mendon Quakers were nearly all prosperous farmers with very good farm buildings, fine horses and carriages, and good sized families. These families were kept comfortable and well educated. Only occasionally did a daughter do anything outside the home except teach school. They enjoyed visiting, riding with their families, traveling, and attending monthly and quarterly meetings, etc. The women were splendid housekeepers and good cooks. They were wonderful friends and neighbors. If anyone was ill or in need, the Quakers were generous in their aid and gifts.

Overlooking Hundred Acre Pond is the beautiful cobblestone house built by Jeremiah Stewart who had purchased the land which had just been opened for sale about 1812. Squatters had settled on the tract previously and clear title could not be obtained until the 1830s. Thus, the cobblestone house was built about 1834. The "hardhead" stones for it were gathered from the adjoining slopes, and ox teams hauled flagstones for window and door sills from Scottsville. In the house, there is a massive kitchen fireplace with a powder compartment. The timbers are hand hewn--truly a beautiful example of fine workmanship.

The Monroe County map of 1858 shows that the entire Mendon Ponds area was divided into square or rectangular lots of about 100 acres each. The families who lived on and worked these farms in the Mendon Ponds area did so for about 75 years until Professor Fairchild of the University of Rochester proclaimed the area of Mendon Ponds worthy of being named a park.

*To be continued in the next issue of "Pathways."*



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## Mowing the LEHIGH VALLEY TRAIL



Mowing the Trail is no small job. The right of way encompasses about 190 acres of which over 40 acres are mowed 3 to 4 times each season, depending on the weather. The Foundation is very fortunate to have two men who volunteer to do this work on a regular basis.

**Charlie Markham**, who lives on Semmel Rd. and is pictured above on the Foundation's Kubota Tractor, has been mowing the Mendon half of the Trail for almost 3 years. **Ron Fabretti**, of Honeoye Falls – Pittsford Rd., has mowed the Rush half for the last 2 years, using his own tractor and bush-hog.

These men deserve a great deal of gratitude from the Foundation, the Community, and Trail users, for the many hours of hot and dusty work that they have donated. Each mowing takes about 12 hours for Mendon (due to the larger areas at Rochester Junction and Mendon Station Park) and 8 to 9 hours for the Rush section.

Next time you see them mowing on the Trail, please take a moment to stop and say thank you for a big job, well done.

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- Ben Franklin



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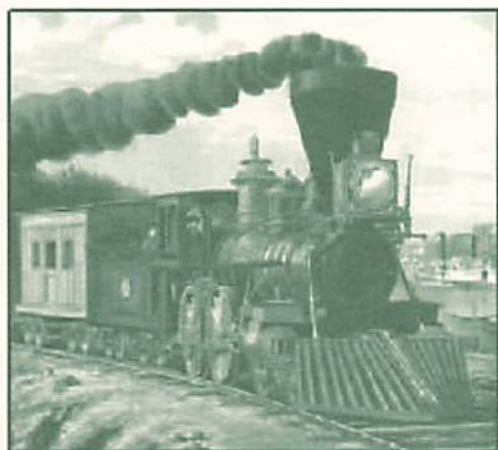
## A New Trail on the Trail

Tired, Hot, or just looking for a little peace and quiet? You might try exploring the new side trail on the Lehigh Valley Trail. The Totiakton Trail is the Troop 10, Eagle Scout Project of **Stefan Napp** (pictured at right). Located just the right of the West Wye Bridge at Rochester Junction, the trail extends down a set of landscape stairs, along a winding stone pathway, over a small bridge, to a bench at the junction of Surrine Creek and Honeoye Creek. A truly peaceful and inspiring spot.



Our thanks to Stefan, and all the parents, friends and scouts who helped create this really outstanding addition to the Lehigh Valley Trail.





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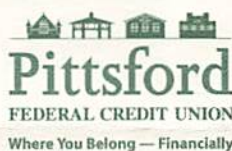
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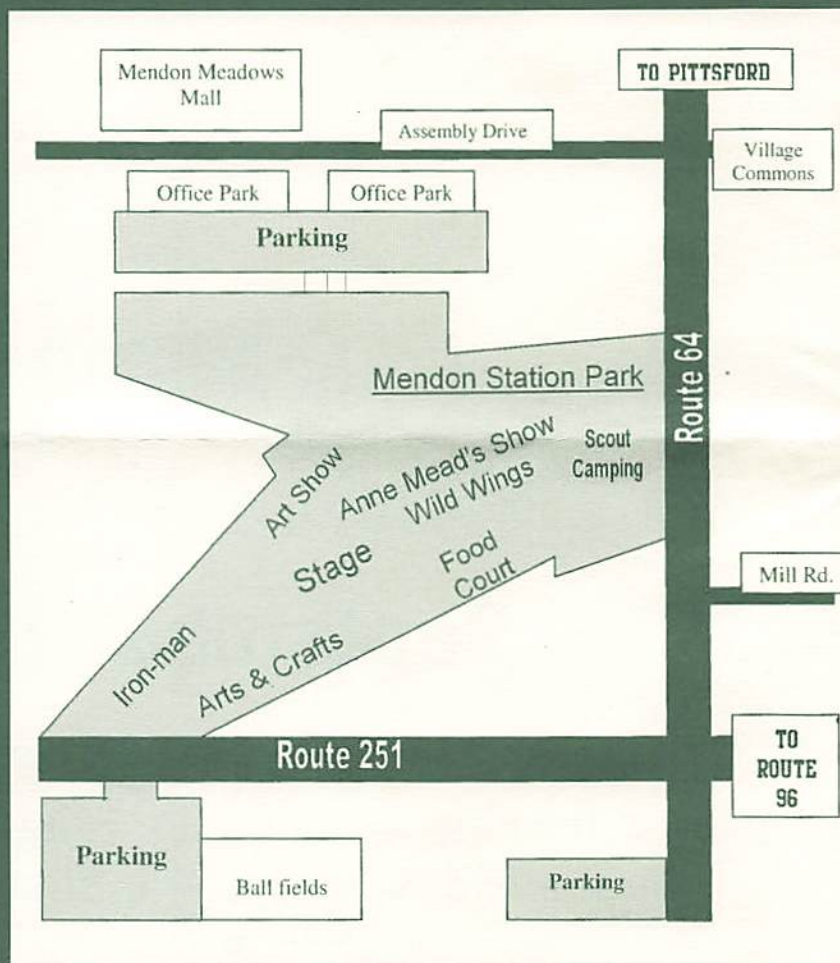
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# 2007 Mendon Station Festival

## EVENTS & TIMES

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

- 11 AM - 5 PM: Artists & Craft Vendors  
Food Vendors at the Food Court  
Chicken BBQ sponsored by St. Catherine of Siena's Youth Ministry  
Native Tree, Shrub & Woodland Plant Sale  
Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District's Scholastic Art Show  
Games of Skill  
Wild Wings Bird Show  
Boy Scout Troop 105 Camping Demonstration  
Non Profit Organizations Booths
- 12:30 - 4:30 PM: Horse Drawn Wagon Rides - Along the Lehigh Valley Trail  
Iron-man Challenge Inflatable  
Canandaigua National Bank & Trust's Cash Cube
- 12 NOON - 2 PM: FIDDLERS OF THE GENESEE
- 2 PM - 4 PM: THE BOB SQUAD  
Anne Meade's "Making Tracks with the Animal Teachers" Show

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

- 12:00 - 5 PM: Artists & Craft Vendors  
Food Vendors at the Food Court  
Native Tree, Shrub & Woodland Plant Sale  
Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District's Scholastic Art Show  
Games of Skill  
Wild Wings Bird Show  
Boy Scout Troop 105 Camping Demonstration  
Non Profit Organizations Booths
- 12:30 - 4:30 PM: Horse Drawn Wagon Rides - Along the Lehigh Valley Trail  
Iron-man Challenge Inflatable  
Canandaigua National Bank & Trust's Cash Cube
- 12:00 - 1 PM: YOUNG IRISH DANCERS
- 1 PM - 1:30 PM: THIRD ANNUAL PET PARADE
- 2 PM - 4 PM: BOUGHTON HILL BAND  
Anne Meade's "Making Tracks with the Animal Teachers" Show
- 5 PM: AWARDS FOR THE SCHOLASTIC ART CONTEST

#### NOTES:

1. Location: Mendon Station Park is located between Routes 64 & 251 in the Hamlet of Mendon.
2. Questions: Contact the Festival Chairman @ 624-3182 or e-mail [ajcluff45@aol.com](mailto:ajcluff45@aol.com)
3. Free Admission and Parking, plus Handicap Accessible Rest Room Facilities.

PROGRAM SCHEDULING MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



# HFL Grant Endowment Fund Program Expands!

## Do you want to get in on the ground floor?

The Mendon Foundation, in conjunction with the Honeoye Falls School District, is pleased to announce the formal expansion of the HFL Grant Endowment Fund Program to include more members of our community as well as the more opportunities for our children.

Mendon Foundation President Carl Foss met with HFL Superintendent Michelle Kavanaugh early in the spring to discuss ways to expand the HFL Grant Endowment Fund, started in 2005 by a donation from Christopher Carosa, a local investment adviser and Mendon Foundation Board member. Dr. Kavanaugh summed up the intent of the proposed expansion when she stated, "A partnership between HF-L Schools and the Mendon Foundation makes perfect sense for our community. Education is central to the mission of both organizations. By combining our collective interests and seeking creative ways to make things happen, we can both continue to build the quality of life we share."

The expansion now includes the creation of a Joint Advisory Committee as well as new giving opportunities. The Joint Advisory Committee will include members of the Mendon Foundation, HFL School District and the broader community. They will be responsible for publicizing the Endowment Fund's activities and opportunities, accept new monies by reviewing and accepting proposed donations for practicality and suitability, distribute funds by review, and by accepting grant applications. "The opportunity to foster innovative student programs raises the standing

of both our community and our school district," says Mr. Carosa. "The HFL Grant Endowment Fund Program allows our community something it, unlike other communities, currently cannot do: The HFL Grant Endowment Program both allows generous people to make tax deductible donations AND gives them a guarantee their money will go precisely where they intend it to go." Adds Dr. Kavanaugh, "Good educational programs can become great when innovations have an opportunity to emerge. Traditional funding structures to support innovations are finite and constrained by mandates. In an ideal world, there would exist a more flexible source of funding to support the incubation of ideas and possibilities in our schools. I think the Mendon Foundation has this capacity to make our world ideal at HF-L!"

Here's what we're asking you: We are looking for those interested in filling these two types of people:

1. People genuinely interested in HFL student education to serve on the Joint Advisory Committee;
2. People interested in creating scholarships or those with charitable intentions seeking tax deductible opportunities who have a desire to support HFL students in a general or specific way or who want to be sure their charity goes directly to the intended programs.

If you know someone you would like to nominate for either of these positions, please contact either Chris Carosa (624-3150) or Michelle Kavanaugh (624-7010) during normal business hours (or if you happen to bump into them at a community event). Deadline for the Joint Advisory Committee nominations is September 30, 2007.

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# The Tour de Lehigh Valley Trail



The following is from a letter sent to Foundation Director Warren Wallace by Karen Lankeshofer of the Rush-Henrietta School Age Child Care Program.

*I was so glad to see that eagle scouts and others are taking interest in the LVT. It is a gem of a recreational opportunity for anyone interested in nature and local history.*

*Since I am a strong advocate of cycling, not only as a recreation activity but as a means of transportation, I introduced our first "Tour de Lehigh Valley Trail" during last year's summer program. The children were so excited about it; we decided to repeat it again this year. Our tour on Friday closed out an entire week of cycling activities. We had a bike maintenance man come and show the children how to care for their bikes and a woman who rode across the country gave us a slide presentation of her trip.*

*Friday's tour started in Rush and ended in Mendon. Our bikes were transported there in a truck and the children came on the bus. We stopped at Rochester Junction for a short history lesson and at the beaver dam on Clover Street for a short nature lesson. Some of the children were lucky enough to see a deer. In Mendon we had pizza delivered to us at the baseball field. Once the children had replenished their energy we split into groups. One group stayed at the baseball field and had a great game of kickball. The rest rode their bikes a few miles farther with me before we had to return to the Vollmer building on the bus.*

*Our group consisted of 35 children and 6 adults from the Rush-Henrietta School Age Child Care Program, located in the Vollmer building at 150 Telephone Road in W. Henrietta. As the name suggests, we offer child care during the summer as well as during the school year.*

*We were blessed with wonderful weather and the kids all had a great time. Some really came to appreciate how far 8 miles is, especially the young man who had a flat tire and had to push his bike for 4 of them.*

*Thank you so much and good luck with future projects along the trail.*



# 2nd Annual Bird Walk

The 2nd annual bird walks along the Lehigh Valley Trail and in Markus Park attracted many residents including several children. The weather was warm and bright so that many birds were sighted for our enjoyment. Many of the birds identified were warblers, including the palmer warbler, red-winged black birds, tree swallows, red breasted grosbeak, all the species of woodpeckers found in this area (red belly, pileated, downy and hairy), blue heron, Baltimore oriole, ducks, geese and many other common birds. Our thanks to Stuart Ackerman who led all the groups on the informative walks. He not only taught us about the different species but also used bird calls to entice the birds out of the trees. A picnic breakfast was enjoyed at the end of the walks. Next year plan to join us as we walk the Mendon Foundation properties looking for that unusual bird. Some of the birdwatchers who enjoyed the walks were Diane Turner, Christine and Heather Haffen with friends Rebecca and Linda, Charlie Klinger, Roy Cluff and many others.



# 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.

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## Girl Scout Troop 796 WILDFLOWER PROJECT

On April 29, 2007 as an Earth Day project, 12 girl scouts and their parents joined Directors Warren Wallace and Arlene Cluff in planting wildflower seeds at the Lehigh Valley Trailhead on West Bloomfield Rd. The girls raked the area to be planted and sowed wildflower seeds. Be sure to look for the wildflower beds along the trail at West Bloomfield Rd. and traveling east to the ball fields. The girls and their parents were - Denise & Nikki Zimmerman, Chris & Jordyn Bacon, Eleanor, Amelia & Andy Vaughan, Tracy McGrath, Leslie & Hannah Barkin, Amanda, Rachael & Darylann Adolf, Sue, Ron, Brooke & Madisyn Puchebner, Kaitlyn West, Suzanne Wolf, Helen Warfle, Lydia Ellinger & Micaela Donatello. Thank you to all the girls and their parents. We hope to continue this project throughout the years.



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