

"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 17 NO 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENDON FOUNDATION

SPRING 2010

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MENDON: THE CIVIL WAR HOME FRONT • HISTORIC CHURCHES OF MENDON •
SCOUTS LEARN COLD WEATHER CAMPING SKILLS • MENDON FESTIVAL SILENT
AUCTION • HISTORY OF HF-M AMBULANCE SERVICE • LV TRAIL NEWS



Student work on display!

Cover photo by:
Tyler Felder
Grade 6

Jack Marchaum
Grade 7

HF-L student photography students, photo buffs, and teachers are very excited to have student work exhibited in Mendon Foundation's PATHWAYS Newsletter. This is the first time Mendon Foundation has offered this opportunity.

One hundred and twenty photos were submitted in hopes of being featured in this edition.

Student and adult judges from HF-L and its community assisted in narrowing the finalists to 13. Pathways Editor and team narrowed the field to the finalists featured here.

Please check out the Mendon Foundation web site for the final thirteen entries.

Congratulations to all!

Claire Michaud
Grade 10



Happy Trails!



In 2007 Bill and Sandi Shusda of Lima decided to take up biking as a way to enjoy their retirement.

Bill, a retired NYSDOT civil engineer, was familiar with the bike trails in the area that DOT had provided funds for. Sandi, a retired high school math teacher, wanted a way to get exercise and enjoy the outdoors, so biking was a logical choice.

After purchasing two “comfort” bikes, the couple set out to try all the trails in the area. It was not long before they decided that the Lehigh Valley Trail was the best of the ones they had been on. When 2007 ended they had gone 581 miles.

Starting in early April 2008 and riding 2-3 times a week until mid-November, 781 miles were logged. As 2009 began a goal of 1000 miles was set. Starting again in early April, they rode 5-6 times a week and by August the 1000 miles was history. Continuing until December 2, when the weather finally gave out, 1542 miles had been covered.

On most occasions, Bill and Sandi leave their home in Lima, and travel to Plains Road to access the trail. From this location they ride to The Genesee River and back (14 miles) or to the trail end near Victor (16 miles). Also they ride on the Northern Branch to its end near the Thruway (10 miles). Most rides are in the 12-20 mile range with an occasional 22 mile ride.

Along the way they have lost 50 pounds, a benefit to good health. Another benefit to riding on the Lehigh Valley Trail is the many new friends they have met along the way. Both are members of the Mendon Foundation and Sandi donated a quilt she made to the auction in September.

As 2010 begins, Bill and Sandi are looking forward to the improvements scheduled to be built this year and to many more miles of riding enjoyment.

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The Civil War Home Front – Mendon



*By Diane Ham,
Mendon Town Historian*

In the 1850's, the Eastern part of the United States had become almost two separate countries--the North and the South. The growing North attracted immigrants to its busy cities and manufacturing jobs. The South was mostly agricultural, and its proud and aristocratic people wanted it to remain that way. Friction between the regions grew; war had become inevitable.

On April 12, 1861, the Great War began. Some of the causes that led to the great Civil War were: economic and social differences between the North and the South; states versus federal rights; and the slavery issue. Regarding slavery, not all Southerners were slave owners, but the South's economy depended on the large cotton plantations worked by slaves. Without slavery, Southerners feared their whole way of life would be destroyed. Slavery

was the South's answer to its need for a large, cheap labor force to raise its main crop, cotton. Many slaves led lives of back breaking labor, poor rations, and beatings. Their lives were not their own. They were property, like a horse or a wagon. They could be sold at any time and separated from their spouses and children.

During the War, three million Americans fought each other in over 10,000 battles and skirmishes across the country. More than 620,000 soldiers died. Those who fought suffered greatly in this war that seemed to have no end. In some cases, brothers fought against brothers or fathers and sons were sometimes on opposing sides, and old friends often faced each other in battle.

Within 15 months of the onset of the war, Monroe County organized over 40 companies, with a total of nearly 5,000 men. The list from Mendon numbered

about 185 soldiers who served in the war. District School #7 at Mendon Center was used as a recruiting station for these soldiers. Soldiers leaving for the Civil War traveled by train then marched to their destination in parade fashion after they had assembled. Fifteen Mendon soldiers were killed in battle, twelve died of sickness during the war, six died in prison, nineteen were wounded and two were reported as having deserted. Thirty Civil War soldiers are buried in Mendon cemeteries.

The wives of Mendon soldiers in the Civil War greatly felt the effects of the war at home. Those who lived on farms were now responsible for the farm in addition to their regular, full-time duties of household work and child rearing. Before the war, the daily lives of women included sewing garments for the family, tending gardens, canning food, cleaning and maintaining the house, and preparing

three meals a day. Doing laundry for a family usually took an entire day. With their husbands off to war, rural women were also left with the tasks of overseeing or tending the farm animals such as hogs and cows, plowing and harvesting crops, and managing the finances of the home. The overseeing of such business was new to most of the women. Soldiers would try to do what they could in advising their wives in the matters of managing the farm by letter. High prices for cash crops during wartime enabled some women to hire laborers to take care of farm work. Children, relatives, neighbors, and townspeople pitched in to help the families of the Mendon soldiers with such tasks as gathering, chopping and delivering firewood to the families of soldiers in the village and hamlet.

In addition to having more responsibilities at home, women also worked to supply the soldiers' needs. Even before a soldier was mustered in, wives, sisters and sweethearts would work to outfit their soldier. They would knit socks, sew shirts, pants, and coats, and supply sewing kits. Women's clubs gathered to sew battle flags which they would present to regiments. Soldier's Aid Societies formed by women supported the soldiers medically, spiritually, and economically. They tried to lift the soldier's spirits by gathering and sending care packages to the front. Boxes of tasty cookies, pastries, jellies, and meats were packed along with the latest news from home to keep up morale.

The war created great uncertainty, loneliness and fear in the minds of the women at home. Women with husbands, brothers, or sons at war would make daily treks to the post office to see if their loved ones' names were on the latest postings of killed and wounded. With most of the traditional income-earners off to war, many women had a hard time making

ends meet. Each private in the Union army was to receive \$13 per month. The check was sent home. This money was very slow to arrive, if it was delivered at all. Priority was placed on the troops in the field, and the people back home came in a distant second.

The only local reference we have to the most devastating war in our history is found in the Mendon Town Clerk's minutes. At a special meeting of the Mendon trustees on the 23rd of September 1864, a resolution was passed stating that due to the president's call for another quota of volunteers, the Town was offering bounties as follows: "To a volunteer or a person gotten by another to serve as a substitute - \$500 for one year, and a volunteer or substitute for three years or the duration of the war - \$600. To finance this, bonds not to exceed \$40,000 were issued." The clerk's minutes show that only three men paid others to go in their place as substitutes.

Lucius Allen, one of Honeoye Falls' memorable figures, in his Centennial address, paid high tribute to the men of the Town and Village who served in that most dreadful war as well as those left to carry on at home. These were his words: "The fires of patriotism burned no less brightly in the quiet homes and hamlets of this town than in many another locality throughout the North. Well might the hour be occupied in a review of the scenes and events of those trying days in which our citizens took such an active part...One out of every twenty of our population was at the front. The roster of the town of Mendon is full of a glorious record, ours to cherish, ours to revere."

The American Civil War profoundly changed our nation and our families. It was the greatest struggle our country has known, ending May 10, 1865.



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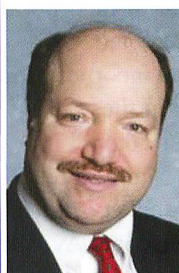
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Historic Churches of Mendon



Mendon, or more specifically, the Village of Honeoye Falls, is noteworthy for its historically important church buildings. Of the four congregations that were conducting regular Sunday services in 1838, the year of incorporation of the Village, two erected sanctuaries soon after the incorporation and continue to worship in these historic buildings to this very day. First Presbyterian Church on Main Street was completed in 1841 and St. John's Episcopal Church on Episcopal Avenue was completed in 1842. In this issue I will focus on the interesting history of St. John's Episcopal Church.

In the 1830's, most of the local "churches" operated as Church Societies. The Episcopalians met in small groups in the first brick school, across the street from what is now Harry Allen Park. They also used the Methodist Church. Itinerant preachers would occasionally come to conduct a service of worship. In the summer of 1840 St. John's filed a certificate of

incorporation and became an official Episcopal Church, though it owned no land. Two of the church officers (Vestry in the Episcopal Church), Henry C. Culver and Samuel Rand, were also officers of the village government. In September of that year the church acquired two parcels of land - now Episcopal Avenue - and a building committee was formed to plan and erect a sanctuary. Among the members of the building committee were Samuel Rand, Hiram Sibley, and Edward Lacy, who owned the land on which the sanctuary stands.

The church was completed in April 1842, at which time the deed to the property was presented to the first bishop of the Diocese of Western New York. At that time the congregation was composed of sixty adults and thirty children.

Initially, the church consisted of the 36 by 62 foot structure we see from the street. The building was built to last,

having been constructed with dolomite stone quarried from the banks of Honeoye Creek. Its design is somewhat unusual, an attractive combination of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival architecture. It is considered by many as one of the most beautiful structures in the Village.

In those days parishioners either walked to church, came by carriage, or on horseback. To the right of the sanctuary is the former carriage house, now used as the church office.

Over the years improvements were made to enhance the sanctuary, which at first had frosted glass windows. In the 1870's the Chancel was erected, a domed structure whose floor is elevated above the level of the main structure. A tin ceiling was installed which forms a graceful arch above the congregation. Stained glass windows were added at various times.

The State and Federal Government have recognized the historical importance of St. John's and have added it to its roster of Landmark Buildings and sacred sites.

The Parish House was erected on land given to the church by Sarah Rand in 1876. The land used for the parking lot was acquired in the 1960's. An agreement was made by the church with the Village to use the parking area as a public parking facility. A similar agreement was made with the Post Office to use the church land for post office parking.

Anyone wishing to visit St. John's is welcome to schedule a tour of the church. Call the church office, 624-4074, to be sure the doors will be open.

History of Honeoye-Falls Mendon Ambulance Service



In 1969, a new Cadillac Ambulance was purchased, the call number was No. 569.

Imagine being ill or injured and having to be transported to the hospital in a hearse? Prior to the formation of the Honeoye Falls Emergency Relief Squad and the purchase of the first Honeoye Falls ambulance a hearse belonging to Merton Kays Funeral home not only transported the deceased to their funeral but also transported patients to the hospital.

On February 26, 1964 a group of 5 Honeoye Falls fireman, R. Lake, F. Grace, D. Bock, G. Schenkel and W. Tenny attended a village board meeting to discuss the need for an ambulance squad for the village. July 27th 1964 the village approved formation of the Honeoye Falls Fire Department Emergency Relief Squad and the purchase of a 1964 Cadillac ambulance for \$9,595.

The first ambulance squad consisted of many familiar village names such as S. Caves, R. Warren, J. Driscoll, T. Alfieri, R. Moffitt, K. Spohr, R. Grievson, E. Harnish Sr., L. Michel, R. Nichols, A. Snoddy, C. Baker, D. Ripley, H. Ball, M. Jennejohn, L. Tripp, R. Bock, and R. Kennedy. To be an ambulance squad member you were required to be a member of the Honeoye Falls Fire Department, hold

a current advanced first aid card and had to be 21 years of age, if married, or 25 years if unmarried.

The brand new ambulance arrived on August 20th 1964 and was housed at the Village Hall on East St. Seven days later at 1:05 pm when this new vehicle was in the process of having lettering painted on the doors the first call came in. With the paint still wet Bill Caves and Ken Spohr sprang into action. The first patient transport was to Geneva hospital. Unlike today very little care was provided on route to the hospital, the ambulance served mainly as transportation. Upon return to the village stones were picked out of the new paint and the lettering was completed.

The first six months of service brought 62 emergency response calls within the village of Honeoye Falls.

The town of Mendon Fire District did not have an ambulance squad but had a need for such a service. The town of Mendon approached the Honeoye Falls Village Board on Oct 2nd 1964 about the possibility of sharing ambulance coverage with Honeoye Falls Fire District. One year later

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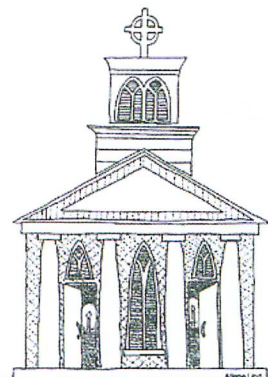


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ambulance coverage was granted to the Mendon Fire District. A problem was discovered with the Town of Mendon's contract in January of 1966 and it took a special act of congress of the State of New York to allow a fire department ambulance to contract services outside of their fire district. The bill cleared the Senate on May 18, 1966 and Honeoye

Falls and Mendon entered into a contract for ambulance services.

The original Cadillac ambulance served the district for 5 years before being replaced with a 1969 Cadillac. In 1975 a Dodge van was purchased, providing the community with 2 ambulances. The number of 5619 was assigned to the new van; this number is still used today.

In 1975 expansion of the Fire Hall, made room for the ambulance's to be housed alongside the fire trucks on Monroe St.

In 1979 it was approved by the squad that members of the ambulance did not have to be members of the fire department, and would participate only in ambulance activities.

In 1981 the first Horton ambulance was purchased. This vehicle was similar to the ones we have today. The large box gave the medics more room to move around to administer patient care. By the time the Honeoye Falls Fire department reached its 100 year anniversary, the volume of calls in Honeoye Falls and Mendon had reached over 325 per year. The ambulance squad had grown to 37 members, 11 of which held an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) license. Training was becoming more important due to the fact that more lives were being saved by new techniques and procedures that were being instituted on scene and on route to the hospital. Throughout the history of the Honeoye Falls Ambulance our local



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~ Steve Riley is a Mendon resident and proud to support the Mendon Foundation.

village and town doctors have played key roles assisting in the training of the ambulance crew members.

In 1987 the Ambulance applied for and received New York State Certification to provide Advance Life Support (ALS) services. The original ALS department consisted of Pat & Phil Casper, M. Shepard, K. Bushman, S. Hume, R. Evans and M. Marchase.

As the community grew and members and calls increased space became an issue at the fire hall on Monroe St. With 4 usable vehicle bays and 7 double stacked vehicles, 600 calls per year, 100 ambulance members and firefighters sharing the same facility, and equipment stored in every nook and cranny. The crews worked well together but there just was not enough room.

In 1992 the Ambulance and Fire became two separate departments of the village. The Ambulance department was now searching for a new headquarters. Many different sites were considered and many meetings took place. Following a generous donation from Southco Inc., of a 3 acre plot of land on



Our Headquarters

East St., the new Honeoye Falls Ambulance headquarters would be constructed. It wasn't until April of 1995 that the groundbreaking took place. The Honeoye Falls Mendon Volunteer Ambulance Corp. was run strictly by volunteers until 1998 when the need for day time coverage resulted in the employment of paid personnel. Today we employ 14 part-time ALS and Basic Life Support (BLS) technicians, a full time Operations Supervisor and

approximately 40 volunteers. We cover at least 800 calls a year and staff the Ambulance base 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. We recently purchased a new Horton ambulance, providing 2 full size vehicles, one advanced life support and one first response vehicle.

We are always actively recruiting new members. If you have an interest in volunteering please call our recruitment line at 624-8760.



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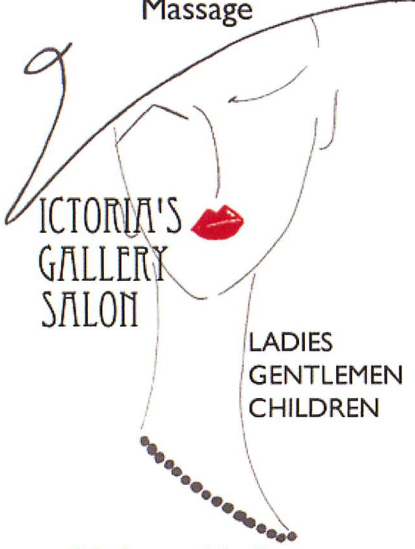
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*By Ann Hubregsen, CNLP
Tree and Landscape
Consultant*

The Mendon Foundation has once again enhanced our beautiful town of Mendon on a shoestring budget! After much persistence, the Foundation was awarded a funding from Monroe County, for new plantings at Mendon Station Park. As part of the funding package, the Foundation agreed to contribute a matching percentage of their own funds. The result was an opportunity to make some beautiful visual and functional improvements to our "diamond in the rough", Mendon Station Park.

As a resident, the Foundation asked me to design and supply the plants to enhance the former train station in our hamlet. The matching funds allowed for some construction work

that would add functionality as well as aesthetics to the site. The resulting plan was based on the history of the site, the budget, and the available volunteer labor to install and maintain the new plantings.

Starting first with the basic function of the park, the design included some perimeter plantings to give a sense of enclosure or place as well as create vistas to areas surrounding the park. A graceful row of Snowdrift Crabapples trees would run through the center of the park as the main focal point. Planted to follow the old rail line, the trees would create a rhythm and visual line through the middle of the park to suggest the image of the old Lehigh Valley Train. They will also flower profusely in Spring, turn a

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brilliant yellow in Fall, and display tiny red fruit all Winter long.

Plant choices were made based on several factors:

- low browse risk to withstand the ever present and growing deer population.
- low maintenance shrubs with few disease and insect issues combined with proper planting techniques will greatly reduce future health issues.
- color and texture in plant foliage provides seasonal interest.
- a “Do it yourself” dimension remains to be completed by the town residents. They were encouraged to add the flowering element by donating perennials from their own gardens. To-date, more than 120 plants have been committed for planting this Spring.
- Blending into the surroundings. The existing plants in and around the park are primarily wild. On the south side, the park borders the historic hamlet buildings. The native hedge row was tailored for a more friendly and inviting interaction with the neighbors. On the north side, the existing plants have been allowed to naturalize. To enhance and lower the maintenance, cultivated varieties of native plants were designed in to beautify what might otherwise been seen as unsightly weeds.

With the design approved by Monroe County, over twenty volunteers arrived with shovels wheelbarrows and tractors to install more than 110 plants. Starting early on a spectacular Fall Saturday, the volunteers had

everything properly planted and mulched by midday. It was an amazing display of dedication and generosity to our community.

The matching funds from the Foundation provided the last element of the design. Applying a “repurpose/recycle” approach, existing, on site boulders and new boulders of similar geological origin were placed to create an outdoor room of the old debris pile in the middle of the park. Natural stone steps were installed to provide access up the steep side of the bank to the beautiful grass knoll. Naturally rectangular boulders were set at the top as benches to view meadow to the north. Large rocks were placed down the gentle slope to encourage children to climb and trail trekkers to rest on them. It’s become a place to play, to picnic, to take wedding photos, or to enjoy the Mendon Station Park Festival in September.

So come out this Spring and stroll through the newly planted Mendon Station Park. Enjoy the beautiful plantings, climb the steps, rest on the benches, and dream of the exciting history of this very special place right in the heart of our very own hamlet!

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Please join me for a Volunteer Planting Party on Saturday, July 10th at 9 am in Mendon Station Park.

RSVP to Ann Hubregsen at ahubregsen@tedcollinst-l.com.

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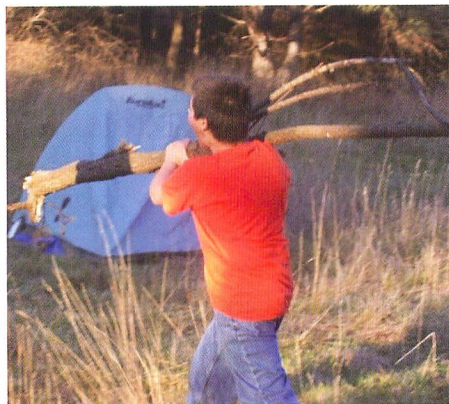
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Scouts learn cold weather camping skills.

Last November, five Boy Scouts from Troop 10 of Honeoye Falls had the pleasure of camping on the Mendon Foundation land off Pittsford-Mendon Center Road. The campout served as the first cold weather campout for three of the scouts, and the two senior scouts went to mentor the younger ones. The site, which is about half a mile from the road, was perfect for the beginner scouts. It was the perfect place for them to learn basic backpacking and cold weather camping skills. Before the campout, the older scouts led an information session where the younger scouts learned how and what to pack for winter camping trips. They learned the proper clothes to bring and how to pack lightweight for backpacking. We also created the menu for the trip. Some of the meals were designed to demonstrate use of light weight stoves while backpacking and others used an open fire.




weight stoves to heat up water for clean up and hot cocoa. They learned about the different types of fuel for light-weight stoves, and how to safely use them. After we cleaned up, we sat around the warm fire and enjoyed each other's company after a long day. Before going to bed, the boys learned how to put the food and trash up in a tree, so animals can't get it.

The seclusion of the site was nice during the day; we were out camping, despite being very near to houses, but the night proved to be even better. Because of the cloudless sky and lack of artificial lighting, we enjoyed an incredible view of the starry November sky. The stars brought a cool night, however, despite the warm day. This



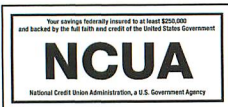
After about five minutes of the hike in, the younger scouts realized the importance of packing light; every bit of weight adds up, and they felt that weight for the hike. After reaching the site, the scouts chose their tent site. They looked for a flat spot that wasn't under any large branches or at a point where rain would collect. By the time they pitched their tent, it was time to collect wood for our fire (we brought a fire-pit, which the adults happily carried in). Pizza was on the menu for dinner. The scouts used aluminum pie tins to cook the pizza on the open fire. After a few personal pizzas were cooked, the scouts had the technique mastered. By the time everyone had had dinner, they were ready for dessert. Cast iron pie irons to make "moon pies" (bread with marshmallows, chocolate chips, and peanut butter chips) over the fire. Because one of the purposes of this campout was to teach, we used light-

was perfect for the younger scouts; they were able to experience the cold weather while still spending a beautiful day outside. Although it was cold, the scouts had packed smart; they brought warm wool clothes and sleeping bags which kept them comfortable throughout the night. When morning broke, we got up and enjoyed Lucky Charms and oatmeal. After breakfast, we broke camp and practiced the tenants of "leave no trace" camping; we policed the site to make sure that nothing we brought was left there. Overall, the scouts and adults had a great time at a close, yet secluded, beautiful piece of Mendon Foundation land.



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We are Screaming About Our Silent Auction!



Well, we are not really screaming, but last year's silent auction at the Mendon Foundation's Festival was a wonder. A home made wooden canoe, a museum-quality handmade quilt of the first order, and tons of coupons off on purchases, in places you already do business with, went home with successful bidders.

Garages got emptied and the Foundation earned several thousand dollars to go toward projects that improve our trail.

The silent Auction for 2010 promises to be even better.

Check out your attic, garage, back barn and other places for items to donate. The donor gets to take an income tax deduction (see our web site for details), and the foundation gets to showcase some lovely and often unusual objects for sale.

It's not eBay but there are bargains here, for example, a set of six, vin-

tage, metal ice cream chairs (the real deal) that sold for less than \$100. There is also auction-fever and assorted excitement. The handmade canoe, crafted by Mendon Foundation board member Warren Wallace was caught up in a feeding frenzy of last-minute bidding, until the gavel went down.

For a moment it was like a Sotheby's auction!

So look around for great "stuff" or create a gift certificate that showcases your goods or services. The silent auction is a lot of fun at the Festival. Please help us make it exciting. We will all benefit, from a high-powered "silent" auction, in the days that follow the festival with future lovely, quiet walks, skips, jumps, and bicycle rides along the trail.

Silent auction proceeds will be invested in the Trail.



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Trail News

Beaver Pond Overlook Nears Completion



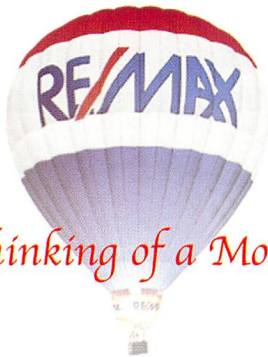
Whether watching wildlife, or just sitting and contemplating the meaning of life, the new Beaver Pond Overlook promises to be a popular spot. Located on the Lehigh Valley Trail about 100 yards east of Clover Street, the Overlook provides an excellent view of an active beaver pond, beaver dam and adjoining marsh land.

The project was built by **Mike Knab**, as his, Troop 10, Eagle project. The above picture shows the project under construction. When finished the elevated railings will be completed, a stone walk will extend from the Trail to the 12' by

16' railed in area, which will be filled with stone and have 6 foot wood/cast-iron bench installed in its center.

As part of his project Mike secured donations from local companies for materials and worked through the winter so as to complete his project before his 18th birthday. The Foundation helped out by supplying plans, some wood, screws, and the bench.

Our thanks to Mike and Troop 10 for another great addition to the Trail, that will be used for many years to come.



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HF-L Cadette Troops Build a Bridge

At the Foundation we often work on building bridges to other organizations to help improve our community. Last fall, a group took us literally.

Members from all three of the HF-L Cadette Troops (363, 254, and 1044) joined together, on their "Make a Difference Day," to build a 16' bridge across a dry stream bed on our Taylor Rd. property. The new bridge connects a side trail to the property's main entrance area.

Those participating in this get-down-and-dirty project were Cadettes, Sarah & Ellie Gaylord, Acadia Fairchild, Sara Wick, Sonya Cotton, Meg Hubregsen, Keena Wildman, and Brooke D'Aprile. The Troop Leaders were Donna Hickling, Yvonne Wambach, and Ann Hubregsen.

Many thanks to all of these young ladies and their leaders for doing such a great job.

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

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We believe in preservation.

We believe in recreation.

We believe in education.

We believe in community stewardship.

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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