

Trail Events

9-12/13
Highlander Cycle Tour
9-28
Journey for Sight
10-4
Greenway Bike Ride
10-19
Ridgework & Run

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Let us Hear from YOU!

Do you have an interesting story about how your group or organization is using the Greenway? Please send it our way! Visit our website (fogvg.org) and click on "E-Mail Us" or mail to FOGVG PO Box 42, Mt. Morris, NY 14510

Greenway Ride has its Ups and Downs

Article by Sally Fox Photos by Karen Wenzel

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Trail riders follow Ron Cicoria, Event organizer

A recent Sunday morning afforded blessed relief from recent rains as twenty-six riders met for the annual Greenway Ride. Heading south on the Greenway off Chandler Road in Piffard, the group had a strong representation of area Tennessee Walker lovers, although there were plenty of other breeds and riding styles on hand as well.

One of the glories of riding on an old railroad bed is that the footing is generally ideal, no matter what time of year or kind of season we are having. There are also sections with ample shade to help stay cool in warmer weather.

Once again, Rob Donnan, whose farm the Greenway traverses at the initiation point of the ride, was gracious enough to provide me with a mount so I was able to take part in the outing. Happily perched atop a lovely gray warmblood-cross mare, I felt completely at home despite the fact that it was my first ride of the year. After all, it's really just like riding a bicycle.

As I marveled at the beautiful scenery and fine footing despite the overabundance of rain this year, Rob commented that looks can be a bit deceiving as woodchucks and other critters have a tendency to burrow into the banks of the trail and holes can appear overnight, so it is really not a good place for galloping any distance.

As luck would have it, this casual remark foreshadowed a lively bit of entertainment. As we approached our turnaround at Routes 20A & 39 in Cuylerville passing through the old salt mine properties, suddenly all you-know-what broke loose as my horse stepped into just such a hole, or actually two holes. In the process of scrambling to regain her footing, she was also confronted by a fearsome large white "X" in the middle of the trail, placed there for aerial surveillance of a pipeline or some such.

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President's Letter



HELP US SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT THE GREENWAY!

Let us place YOUR copy of future newsletters in public places so we can reach a larger audience.

Since the newsletter is now available on our website, you can opt to receive your copy electronically, which will enable us to pass your printed copy along to someone new *at no additional cost to the organization!*

Please e-mail us at fogvg@frontiernet.net if you would be willing to receive your newsletter via the Internet.

Thank you.

This has been a busy and productive season on the Greenway. Our trail survey and trail count, conducted in conjunction with the NYSOPRHP to help us describe use of the Greenway, began in early June with the help of FOGVG members Bob Pierson, Kathryn Hollinger, Jim McMaster, the Henrietta Hill and Gully Riders Snowmobile Club, Ron Abraham, Rich Perkins, and board members Peter Cappadonia and Jim Mullin. An interim report from OPRHP indicates that they are pleased with the number of survey responses being returned from the Greenway.

The completion of a box culvert near Houghton and a new bridge at Rockville Lake, with three more bridges to follow, are helping to open up new sections of trail in Allegany County.

We have welcomed a few new Trail Adopter groups, as well. The survey, trail count and several other projects large and small could not have been undertaken without members stepping up to the plate with their help. Active members are the backbone of our organization.

There's still plenty of time this season to get out on the trail and see these improvements. Perhaps I'll see you there.

Ned Holmes

See a PROBLEM on the Greenway? Let Enforcement Officers Know!

Greenway law enforcement is provided by State Park Police and State DEC Environmental Conservation Officers and Forest Rangers, working together and with state and local police forces. These officers are eager to address any issues or concerns, but cannot do so without the public's help. According to DEC Environmental Conservation Officer Lieutenant Peter Barton, "If you have specific problems, let us know. Then we'll detail patrols to address them."

The more information that can be supplied to the officers, the better they can address an issue. According to Major David Page of the New York State Park Police, "For the most effective response to Greenway problems, please gather and record information about a violation and relay the complaint directly and as soon as possible to a law enforcement agency. If it's an emergency, call 911."

Monroe County & Letchworth State Park
NYS Park Police
585-658-4692

Livingston County
NYS Environmental Conservation Officers
M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m — 585-226-6706
After hours — 877-457-5680

Wyoming and Allegany Counties
NYS DEC Forest Rangers
716-372-0645

NYS Environmental Conservation Officers
716-851-7000

**To Contact Greenway
Law Enforcement Officers**

In an Emergency — Call 911

FINGER LAKES TRAIL

Over 850 miles of hiking trails in the southern part of NYS

For maps, membership, or other info, visit www.fingerlakestrail.org

Finger Lakes Trail Conference
6111 Visitor Center Rd.
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
585-658-9320

The unlawful use of motor vehicles, especially ATV's, is prohibited on the Greenway. Help spread the word to those who may not be aware. *If it has a motor and isn't a snowmobile, it CANNOT BE RIDDEN on the Genesee Valley Greenway.*

E2E with Shadow by my Side

Story and photos courtesy John Holtz



I've been a member of FOGVG for about five years, a past Board member, and frequent walker of the Scottsville-to-Avon stretch of trail. Shadow's and my E2E was in 2004, and we did it in an interesting way – four miles at a time. Each Sunday we would head out after morning coffee and drive to the next southerly gate. We would "walk four" and then retrace our steps back to the car (eight miles was about my limit). On one especially threatening day near Belfast we hitch-hiked back to the car, but every other portion was double-covered, so we actually have a 2E2E! I dedicate our E2E and this account of our escapade to my friend and constant companion, Shadow.
JH

I am proud to be an end-to-ender, or, in the vernacular of instant messaging, an E2Er. But I had to do it in a somewhat roundabout way and with some discomfort along the way.

In the late Spring of '05, I set out from Genesee Valley Park with the idea of "doing" the Greenway top-to-bottom. I was a FOGVG Board Member at the time and wanted to see more of what I was helping to govern. Little did I know when I started out that in truth, I was seeing more of what I was helping to build.

My E2E was done on weekends and with several provisos. P-1: I would walk as much of the Greenway as I could, and only bicycle around what was impassible or inaccessible. There is plenty of both. The trouble with a walk is if you make a wrong choice, it's very difficult to remedy it within the confines of your time on the trail. P-2: I would travel only with Shadow, a 10-year-old mostly black lab, and he and I would be on our own getting back to the car. That meant for every four miles we walked while making forward progress, we walked another four miles returning to the car. P-3: Shadow and I would have to learn our pace and not overdo it. He being on the older side, and my having health issues, this was an important part of our adventure. We did pretty well on our provisos, but P-1 led us astray; P-2 limited our forward progress (I learned quickly that I could not have Shadow with me and bicycle at the same time); and P-3 got us in a bit of trouble.

For the most part, Shadow was the pace setter. Being a lab, he was nosing off in many directions on any scent he came across, but he has such a strong homing instinct that he was always in view, and mostly in front - I never had to wait for him. Being a dog, he is not always aware of potential trouble and will walk "the edge" of safety, as he did nearing the Letchworth parade ground. The rim at just about its highest above the floor runs just a few yards to the right of the trail. Shadow, being a bold and curious dog, approaches danger with abandon (as I found out years earlier when he careened off the edge of a 60-foot drop-off on a Canadian lake shore). He gave my heart a good workout this time, on the slide near the railroad bridge, the culvert outage south of Portageville, and in several places too close to Route 19.

Just leash him, you say. I did for a short while after the rim walk, but a dog on a leash creates a problem for the person on the other end as well. When we went across the slide, mud season was high, and the slide was greasy-slick for Shadow's lighter weight, and yet calf-deep, shoe-sucking ooze for me. After having to pull him across the slide by his harness like a slab of beef, I canned the leash. He's a lot better off fending for himself.



Greenway at Black Creek

Early in our adventure, I took my old, beat-up mountain bike on the Leicester-to-Mt. Morris stretch just to see if dog and bike could be compatible for pace. Even at the lowest gear, Shadow still had to lope along. And being the senior citizen he is, a sore shoulder developed early on and we abandoned that idea. We walked from Genesee Valley Park to the culvert outage south of Portageville. There, the cleared trail ended and so I bicycled the stretch from there through Fillmore and Houghton to Oramel.

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John Holtz “E2Er”

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Shadow and I picked up the trail again by foot there, and walked the rest of the Greenway to Hinsdale. We managed, on average, about four miles one-way per Sunday (eight miles round-trip) - that was about the limit for both man and beast, considering the rough condition of the "trail" we encountered further south. Doing the math, that meant we were on the trail for 21 weekends, and we didn't miss too many: we started in May and finished the first week in October.

I mentioned the trouble with Proviso #1. South of Belfast, the abandoned Erie River Line follows a parallel route very close to the Greenway, in some cases only about 50 yards apart. Once you're on it, it looks almost exactly the same as the Greenway, and who, after all, is there to set you straight? Only upon completion of the E2E and comparing notes with Jim Hutton and Ned Holmes about their parallel adventure, I discovered to my horror that Shadow and I followed the wrong trail from Belfast to Route 305. And that wrong trail was where we met some trouble.

Those who know the trail can picture the rolling terrain of the countryside surrounding the Greenway in the Southern Tier. You also know the almost profound quiet, broken only by a crying blue jay or the clip-clop of carriage horses ferrying their precious Amish cargo to or from church. We took the wrong trail on the only south-to-north leg of our journey - the rest was all north-to-south. Starting from Rt. 305, Shadow and I "found the trail" easily and headed north with light rain falling and a bigger storm brewing at our backs.



Shadow at the Locks at Oakland

The trail here was untouched for years: farm-road bridges long ago rendered unsafe by decay; steep embankments leading nowhere except dense forest; thistles sprouting up thickly and grabbing and cutting unclad ankles at every step; a railway bed stoned with "aughts and ones" that squirmed and gave way under every footfall. That four-mile stretch to Belfast was Shadow's and my longest journey. At the point of no return, Shadow's feet were already cut up from the stones, I was cut and sore, we were both soaked to the skin and shivering,

and my heart was pounding out of my chest from the difficulty of walking that railway bed. There was no shelter from the rain and no turning back. At times, Shadow and I just huddled together, my poncho covering the two of us, for brief rests and then went on again. And then, into our fifth hour, we suddenly came out of the tunnel onto the paved road above Belfast. On just that one day, we sought out and found a ride — in the back of a pickup — back to the car.

Even if we had been on the right railroad in that one four-mile stretch, we still would have violated Proviso #3 - we just flat-out bit off more than we could chew. The maps said about four miles, which had been a piece of cake up to that point. But, sometimes you just don't know what you're getting into. It's two years later now. Shadow is about to turn 13 and could not now do what we did that day. Nor could I, and neither of us will try to atone for taking that wrong stretch of trail.

That was the last leg of our E2E. We had done all the rest: by bicycle from GV Park to the magnificent double-culvert over Black Creek near the airport; by foot from Ballantyne Rd. down through Scottsville and Avon and Mt. Morris, Nunda and Portageville; by bike through Fillmore, Houghton, and Caneadea; and by foot from Oramel past Belmont to Black Creek, Cuba, and then Hinsdale.

But did Shadow and I enjoy that adventure! We got some great exercise, of the body and the spirit. We saw otter and beaver, plenty of deer, muskrats and woodchucks, foxes and weasels, hawks and turkey vultures, skinks and salamanders. And practically no human beings (other than a few horses and riders near Letchworth). The Greenway is still a well-kept secret. And, we had our ice cream - we stopped at the same little shop in Oramel every time we went by it.

These days, we limit our GVG walks to the stretch of trail south of Scottsville to the beaver pond, but the thoughts of that summer and our E2E on the Greenway are a vivid reminder of the treasure we have and that all should enjoy.

**Are you
a GVG
End-to-Ender?**

We'd love to hear from you with stories and photos of your experience. Drop us a line at fogvg@frontiernet.net.

What's Happening on the Trail

NYSDEC Region 8 & OPRHP Genesee Region



Greg Muller checking and re-deploying purple prism traps

Emerald Ash Borer trapping on the GVG and Groveland Secondary (another abandoned rail bed in Region 8 owned by DEC) should be completed by the end of August, as that is the end of the adult emergence season. Traps are set on the GVG because it provides ease of access, covers a large linear area, and falls within the designated survey area. DEC Service Forester Greg Muller states, "If this bug is as bad as we think , our native ash could take the same path as the American Chestnut. To date, the suspect insect has not yet been captured, which is a good thing."

NYSDEC Region 9

The bridge approaches at the Rockville Lake spillway are complete, making another 3,400' of trail connected and accessible to the public. The next bridge to be installed will be the 43' bridge south of Rte 305, followed by a 45' bridge south of Gleason Hill Rd. and the 70' bridge north of Rte 305. The bridges are ordered and are scheduled to be installed this year. They will close the last major breaks in the 14 miles of trail between the hamlets of Black Creek and Houghton (except for the river washout north of Caneadea, for which a detour via Rte 19 is required). Greenway mowing in Region 9 should begin soon, once the Operations crew finishes mowing and grading State Forest roads.



Bridge over Rockville Lake Spillway

What our Adopters are Up To

RON ABRAHAM, Rockville, NY

"As an adjunct to my adopted section of trail, I've once again cleared the "Irish cemetery" (after about 3 years of neglect - it's amazing how fast multiflora rose can grow!) The cemetery is just off the trail, about 1/2 mile north of Rockville Lake. The headstones date back to the 1840's - some are quite ornate; others are merely rough fieldstones set on edge."

"North of Rockville Lake there's a section of the Greenway where the railroad veered away from the canal towpath to get a better alignment past the lake. Until recently, I didn't realize that the parallel section of towpath was still intact (although quite overgrown). I'm clearing a narrow (walking only) trail along the towpath, which will connect with the main trail at Lock 86 and end at a waste weir just below the lake. Another project would be to clear the trees and brush away from the waste weir, which has much of its stonework still intact. It may be this winter before we get that done, but we'll keep you posted."



The "Irish Cemetery" near Rockville Lake

Become A Trail Adopter!

It's easy and rewarding to adopt a section of the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail, and you don't have to do it alone. Help us get (and keep) the trail in tip-top shape. Start by visiting www.fogvg.org to read the Adopt-a-Trail agreement. If you need a copy mailed to you, call 585-658-2569 or email

fogvg@frontiernet.net

CHECK THE LABEL!

If you have yet to join or renew your membership (check your mail label for expiration date), please use the enclosed membership envelope or the form posted on our website and become a Friend of the Genesee Valley Greenway.

Membership News Summer 2008

The FOGVG membership year is from September 1 through August 31. 2007-2008 members to date are listed here and in the November 2007 and Winter 2008 newsletters. We continue to have new members, returning members, continuing members, and early renewals for 2008-09. **WE SINCERELY THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US.

If you have yet to join or renew your membership (check your mail label for expiration date), or wish to make an extra donation to the Friends, please use the enclosed membership envelope or the membership form posted on our web site. ***If you missed renewing last year or in past years, please consider a generous membership level at this time. Memberships received after August 1 will be recorded as 2008-2009 memberships. Thank You!***

New Members: Michael Doyle, Cuba; Fred & Melinda Franzwa, Rochester; Harry Howe, Geneseo; Frank Ross Kuhn, Scottsville; Fran Ludwig, Dalton; Lucy & Leonard Miragua, Rochester; John & Gail Yunker, Wayland.

Returning Members - Welcome Back: Betty & Bill Harmon, Belfast; Mary Michael, Clear, AK

Renewing Members: Arkema, Inc, Henry H. Baxter, James Mullin, David & Elizabeth Smith, Greg Wysocki, Laura Brewer & Frank Zwemer

Early Renewals for 2008-09: Michael S. Buskus, Lakeland Rovers, Jean Mc Master, James Mullin, Ronald & Linda Sallade, Larry & Joy Seaman, David & Grace Strong, David & Kathy Wells, Greg Wysocki

Donations: Harry Howe

For 2008, we've added a new level of membership.

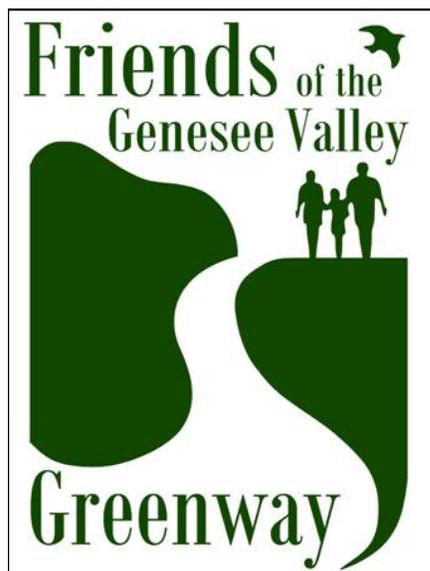
Business Sponsors receive these unique benefits:

1. A one-time feature article about your business in the *Greenway News*, which will be posted on our website for the membership year
2. A display ad (business card size) that will appear in every issue of the membership year, posted on our website and hot linked to yours

Business Sponsors benefit from significant exposure to this audience:

1. Several hundred dues-paid members (households/organizations/businesses)
2. 500+ adjacent landowners in Monroe, Livingston, Wyoming, Allegany, and Cattaraugus counties
3. 250+ complimentary subscriptions sent to elected officials at national, state, and county levels; planning, transportation, economic development, recreation, and tourism officials; conservation boards, chambers of commerce; environmental and preservation organizations, trail groups, public libraries, and historical societies; DEC, OPRHP and DOT; bicycle and ski clubs
4. Public distribution in libraries, public spaces, and FOGVG booths at area sporting/recreation events
5. Unlimited exposure on FOGVG website, which averages 3000 unique visits per month

Note: Members who have already renewed may upgrade their membership to the Business Sponsor level.



Please note that NYS employees may donate to the Friends through Earth Share as part of the NYS Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) workplace giving program. FOGVG is a part of SEFA campaigns in all NY counties. You'll also find us listed under Earth Share in participating corporate campaigns. **Please look for us.**

2007-08 Business Sponsors

*They support us,
so please support them.*

Livingston Associates

80 River Rd., Scottsville, NY 14546

Park Ave Bike Shop

2900 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14618

Ups and Downs

Continued from Page 1

This was a bit more than the poor beast could mentally process on top of the world falling out from under her, and she reverted back to the horse's instinctive mode of defense against all manner of perceived threats – getting gone.

Throwing in an airborne reverse in direction toward home and in the process relieving herself of the cumbersome weight on her back, she wanted nothing more than to be back in the safety of her home herd – poor dear.



Rob Donnan and Sally Fox

I, on the other hand, found myself summarily deposited in the middle of the trail, receiving an almighty thwack to the back of my head as I landed, once again proving why it is a good idea to wear a helmet if you value at all what that admittedly unattractive accoutrement is designed to protect. A quick survey of my various body parts revealed that I was none the



Amy Schefflin in the lead

worse for wear and the biggest problem now lay in catching (and, more ominously, somehow managing to regain my position atop) the beast.

Fortunately, those behind me were able to block her escape, and with Gary Cicoria and Rob's help I was soon back in the saddle with only a bit of injury to my pride. Oh well, we all know that horses keep us poor and humble.

As the beauty of the surroundings soothed my spirit, I couldn't help but feel a bit of pleasure in the knowledge that the old girl can still take a fall and bounce back unscathed. As we arrived back at Rob's, I apologized to all for slowing things down for a while, which they generally dismissed while taking their leave with hearty smiles all around.

Sally Fox has enjoyed the outdoors all her life and particularly values the resources available in this area. Since moving to Geneseo with her family in 1989, she has found her niche as a writer, editor, and program coordinator with the Geneseo Migrant Center for a national curriculum development project targeted primarily at migrant farmworker youth. An avid horsewoman and nationally licensed official, she also writes the Valley Horses column for the Livingston County News.

2008 GREENWAY & RELATED EVENTS

September 12 -13 - Highlander Cycle Tour & Expo Bristol Mountain Winter Resort, Canandaigua, NY, 11:00 – 5:00
Five cycle tours (30 - 100 miles) of various levels of difficulty in the scenic Bristol Hills. FOGVG to be at Expo on the 13th.

www.highlandercycletour.com

September 27 -28 - DEC Hunting & Fishing Days NYS-DEC Region 8 HQ, Avon, NY, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Vendors, displays, and activities related to conservation/wildlife. FOGVG to be represented here. www.dec.ny.gov

September 28 - 27th Annual "Journey for Sight" 5K Walk-a-Thon Belfast, NY (meet at the park next to Rt. 19), 12:00 – 1:00 Registration; Walkers depart at 1:00, runners at 1:30. Sponsored by the Allegany County Lions Clubs, the route includes one mile of the Greenway (between Hughes St. and Gleason Hill Rd). Info: Wendell Bennett (607) 478-8111

Saturday, **October 4, Greenway Bike Ride** Meet at 10:00

am at the trailhead in Canawaugus Park on River Road (Rte 251) in Scottsville for a two-hour, 15 mile ride south to Rt. 5 in Avon and back. Bring water. Optional lunch in Scottsville afterwards. RSVP to Ride Leader: Richard DeSarra. 585-461-5363 or

rdsbike@rochester.rr.com

October 5-7 2008 New York State Canal Conference
An exceptional line up of programs, speakers, exhibitors and sponsors, along with on-site visits to the Buffalo Inner Harbor and Lockport. Registration required. www.canalsnys.org

Sunday, **October 19 - 16th Annual Ridgewalk & Run** - Wellsville, NY- This event, attracting 900 participants in 2007, features spectacular trail walks and competitive runs (14 miles, 10K, & 5K) showcasing the stunning fall beauty in the northern Plateau Region of the Allegheny Mtns. www.ridgewalk.com

Sunday, **November 9** - FOGVG Annual Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
Location and Program TBA

Friends of the
Genesee Valley



Greenway

P.O. Box 42
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
Phone: 585-658-2569

fogvg@frontiernet.net

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WWW.FOGVG.ORG

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End-to-Enders Present Public Program at Cuba Circulating Library



Dave Crowley, Bob Sprague, Dave Adamitis all from Cuba, NY and Chris Cappelletti of Olean (l-r), left the GVG trailhead at Genesee Valley Park at 8 a.m. on Sunday, June 29th. The quartet hiked the trail to Cuba arriving back home on Thursday, July 3rd. The group was invited to present a program on their trek on August 20th at the Cuba Circulating Library. "We had an excellent hike," Crowley reported. "We were pleased to meet up with some other trail users along the way, and were impressed with the excellent maintenance efforts along some sections of the trail."

The hikers pictured at left showed video and many still photos from their five-day End-to-End Greenway trek, and also shared what they learned about the equipment they chose for their journey. Ron Abraham, NYSDEC Senior Forester and Greenway Trail Adopter, and Joan Schumaker from the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway were also there to respond to some of the questions. It was a fun and informative meeting for all in attendance.



Dave Crowley entertaining about 65 trail enthusiasts at the Cuba Circulating Library.