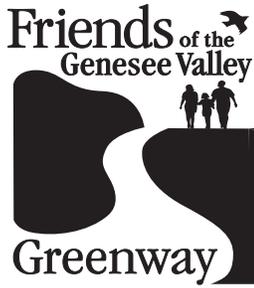


Please consider giving a Gift Membership. Thanks!



# Greenway News

November 2007

## Meet your Board Members

*We are pleased to introduce your newest board members, Pete Cappadonia of Mt. Morris and Nathan Cook of Rochester. Both will serve for two-year terms helping to set policy, provide leadership, and develop long-range strategic plans to provide for future growth.*

"It wasn't called a greenway then but, as a child, I walked and rode my bike (and dirt bike) on the abandoned railroad tracks in Mt. Morris," says **Pete Cappadonia**. When the trail was developed there I became reacquainted with it.

"My wife, Cheryl, and I returned here with our three children in 2005. Now we live about 300 yards from the Greenway; our family often walks and bikes along the trail.

"I was recently elected councilman for the Town of Mt. Morris. I also enjoy playing bass, serving on the financial board for our church, and volunteering with the local Boy Scout Troop.

"As councilman, one responsibility is parks and the Greenway. After talking to many local users, I determined that the community would benefit from cleaning up the section that runs through the village. I contacted the DEC and arranged for permits to clear brush and mow.

"I have since become involved in seeking joint village and town adoption an area near Veteran's Memorial Park that is adjacent to the Greenway but controlled by DEC. My vision is to create a "Victory Garden" there with flower gardens and horticultural displays, DEC-allowable kiosks and structures, and other projects by local groups to beautify and enhance the south entrance to our village, the Veteran's Memorial, and the Greenway at a place where these areas converge.

"As a Board member, I hope to be part of the continued enhancement of the Greenway, to help make people aware of its beauty and value as a recreational resource. The Greenway creates an excellent opportunity to become more physically fit and naturalistically educated; and removed from the distractions of high-tech society, you may actually learn about one other along the way."

**Nathan Cook** lives just a few blocks from Genesee Valley Park, which is the northern terminus of the trail.

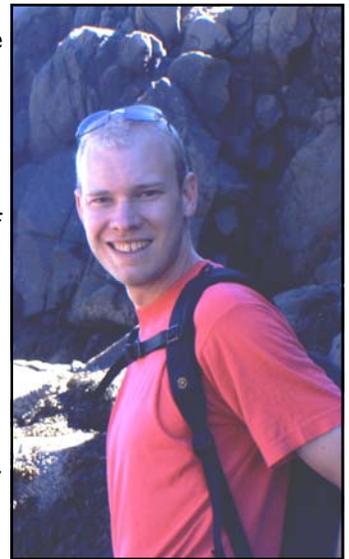
After biking on the trail, he considered its interesting mix of local history and outdoor recreation, which prompted him to contact FOGVG to volunteer.

"My wife and I moved to Rochester in 2006 and used the trail almost immediately.

I have used it for mountain biking (down to Avon and back is a nice excursion) but recently for marathon training. On Saturdays we start at Scottsville and run for a couple hours. The packed dirt and gravel is much more pleasant to run on than concrete or asphalt. Also, the section of the trail we use has lots of shade from overhanging trees, especially in the morning, which is essential on hot summer days.

"I've always loved the outdoors and have done lots of camping and backpacking. I think it would be a great adventure to bike the Greenway and camp along the way. My latest hobby is mushroom identification and collecting; occasionally I even get to eat them when I convince my wife that they're safe!

Mr. Cook was raised in Iowa, and earned a degree in political science from the University of Chicago. He spent six years as a legal administrator at a small law firm, then entered the MBA program at the University of Rochester's Simon School of Business. He comments that he'd like people "more involved with the trail and increase its usage, especially among the U of R and RIT communities that are located so close to the trail."



### FOGVG Major Events

**Annual Hike, Potluck, Meeting & Slide Presentation –**

November 11

**Trail Hikes –**

November 16

November 18

November 23

December 2

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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](mailto:fogvg@frontiernet.net) if you would be willing to receive your newsletter via the Internet.

Thank you.

What a month we've had this October! I hope many of you were able to spend time on the Greenway enjoying these most beautiful days.

The PTNY Conference that I mentioned in the last newsletter is now history and FOGVG conducted a field trip on the Greenway for 29 conference attendees. We were most fortunate that Carol Ash, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and several staff members elected to join our trip to find out what makes this Greenway so special. It was an opportunity that hopefully will result in more attention and resources as we move ahead with development and maintenance of this resource. Special thanks to Scottsville Mayor Mike Souers, who spoke so enthusiastically about the positive impact of the Greenway on his village.

You will note something new in this edition as we promote our new Business Sponsors. Supporting FOGVG at the Business Sponsor level comes with a host of benefits; please read more about them on Page 6. We've noted our two newest Business Sponsors with an asterisk. If you happen, or better yet, choose, to patronize these or any future Business Sponsors, please mention that you read about them in the *Greenway News*.

Sunday, November 11, the date of our annual meeting, is fast approaching and I want to extend an invitation for all to attend. We have a particularly interesting program on the Greenway by Allegany County Historian Craig Braack: "From Canal to Rail to Trail – the Evolution of the Genesee Valley Greenway". Don't miss it. Hope to see you on the trail.

*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  
585-372-0645

**NYS Environmental Conservation Officers**  
585-851-7000

**To Contact Greenway  
Law Enforcement Officers**

***In an Emergency — Call 911***

### HIKE SAFELY DURING HUNTING SEASON

Letchworth State Park lands near the Visitor Center at Mt. Morris Dam are closed to hunting, and so safe for people and pets to sample trails in both directions.

Find maps at Visitor Center or join a guided walk (see events calendar on Pg. 7). Meet at the Dam Visitor Center, two miles off NY 408 south of Mt. Morris.

Dress for weather; bring water. Hikes co-presented by Finger Lakes Trail Conference and FOGVG.

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.*

## On the Trail... in Rockville

### Funding for Bridges will open Four Miles of Trail

The Federal Highway Administration, partnering with DOT in Hornell, has approved the Partners' request to reallocate funds from the TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century) grant. This reallocation will fund the replacement of two Pennsylvania RR bridges and related trail surface work near Rockville in Allegany County.

Prefabricated bridges will be purchased and placed on the existing stone abutments. Work is expected to begin in 2008 and will facilitate the opening of another four miles of



*When replaced, this 43' span will open another 3.5 miles of trail*



*The 70' span north of Route 305*

trail, from Rockville Lake to the hamlet of Black Creek. To date, the 3.5 mile section between Route 305 and Tibbetts Hill Rd. has been closed for lack of one 43-foot bridge.

People will really enjoy using this stretch of trail. It is possibly the most remote section on the southern end of the Greenway, making it a great area for viewing wildlife. Thanks to the beavers, sections of the canal prism are full of water and appear much as they did when the canal was operating. The State is purchasing an adjacent four-acre parcel just south of Route 305, which will allow development of an informal camping area along the trail. Replacing the 70-foot bridge just north of Route 305 will connect another half-mile of trail between the highway and Rockville Lake. The Rockville lake cottage residents in particular will benefit from this new connection.

## Volunteer Opportunity: Can You Help?

FOGVG is seeking a can-do volunteer to undertake an important records management project. Requires Internet access, e-mail, and telephone; proficiency with Microsoft Word and Excel. Work from your home for one week to

three months, depending on how much time can be devoted. For details, please contact Joan Schumaker at 585-658-2569 or [fogvg@frontiernet.net](mailto:fogvg@frontiernet.net).

### 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](http://fogvg.org)) and click on "E-Mail Us" or mail to Box 42, Mt. Morris, NY 14510

## Thank you, Members!

A few months ago, we began asking you to elect electronic distribution of your newsletter so we could put extra print copies in public locations to increase awareness of the Greenway. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS INITIATIVE!**

To date, nearly 30% of members have 'donated' their paper copies, which have been distributed at campgrounds, motels, B&Bs, libraries, banks, and literature racks in communities south of Letchworth State Park.

As the number of newsletter donors grows, so too will the reach of this distribution project – our goal is to place fully half of all printed copies in public locations along the length of the trail. (We enjoy a secondary benefit of decreased mailing costs.)

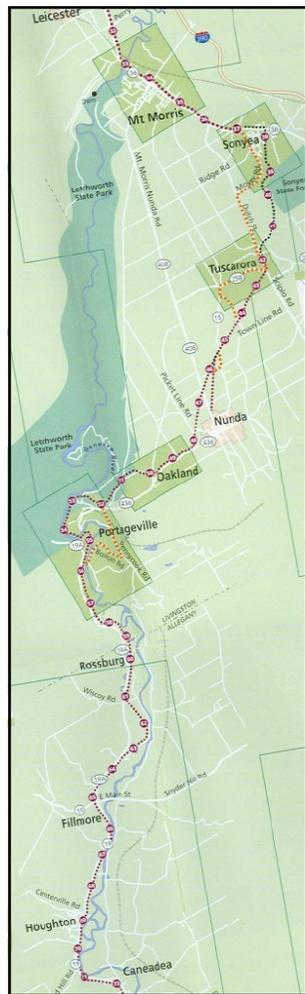
Won't you help us by saying "yes" to receiving your newsletter electronically? Thank you in advance.

**DAY TWO** by Jim Hutton

*In mid-July Ned Holmes and I biked the Greenway end-to-end from Hinsdale to Rochester. We had ridden end-to-end before in sections over the course of a summer, but this time we completed one continuous ride over three days, traveling a total distance of 103 miles. We chronicle the trip for you here. For the story about our first day, refer to the August edition of The Greenway News; the next edition will carry Day Three. JH*

On the second morning of our trip, we had breakfast at the Mini Mart in Houghton before setting out again. This establishment seems to serve as the center of the community for morning deliberations on world affairs. We also purchased sandwiches and drinks there for our lunch.

From Houghton to Letchworth State Park there are only a couple of short sections of trail open (e.g., from West Main St. in Fillmore to Dugway Rd). However, Ned and I rode a couple of unopened, but accessible, sections of trail and were rewarded by seeing several deer and some scenic views of the Genesee River.



As shown on the trail brochure, we left Route 19A at Whiskey Bridge and followed Bolton Rd. and Pennycook Rd. to Route 436 and the entrance to Letchworth State Park. There is one very steep, long hill on this detour which was too much for me and I had to walk my bike for awhile. I think Ned made it the entire way on his bike.

We picked up the trail again just below the Parade Grounds picnic area and followed it through Letchworth State Park to the next detour along Williams Rd. to Short Tract Rd. We ate our lunch on a bench near the Oakland Locks under threatening skies and some sprinkles.

Continuing on after lunch we made a short detour to a convenience store on Route 408 north of Nunda. We then followed the trail through the Triple Creek Golf Course, carefully walking our bikes around the practice putting green under the watchful eyes of some golfers.

Emerging from the Triple Creek golf course we came to the next detour on Pentagass and Creek Rds. On Creek Road we stopped to visit Bill Macgregor, an old friend of Ned's from his days with the NYDEC. Further up Creek Road the trail is

**End-to-Enders...**



*Jim Hutton and FOGVG President Ned Holmes, setting out.*

open again from there to Dudley Rd. before the next detour through Tuscarora to Sonyea (see the Trail Brochure for details).

There is a very steep hill coming out of Tuscarora that, again, I was not able to bike the entire way. We picked up the trail again along Route 36 just north of Sonyea. Except for a short section on the north side of Mr. Morris and along Scottsville Rd. south of Rochester, the trail is open from here to Genesee Valley Park.



We spent the night at the Country Inn & Suites in Mt. Morris, and had dinner at the Genesee River Restaurant next door. I would recommend both. We had biked for eight hours and gone 40 miles on this second day, so had to chuckle a little when the desk clerk gave us directions to their exercise room. Needless to say we declined to go there. JH

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

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

## What's Happening on the Trail

### NYSDEC Region 9

Two projects are anticipated for November: the installation of the bridge over the old spillway at Rockville Lake and of a concrete box culvert between Houghton and Caneadea.

The bridge installation will complete that project (see the September issue of the *Greenway News*) and allow opening of another 7/10 mile of trail to the point where it meets the missing bridge just north of Route 305. (*The Rt. 305 bridge replacement is one of the re-allocation projects planned for 2008.*)



Bridge installation will complete spillway project.

A few hundred feet of erosion must still be repaired with riprap and fill to bring the trail surface to the full 12' width, but the trail there will be usable in its present condition. The culvert installation will allow the opening of another 8/10 mile of trail (from north of the Genesee River washout to RG&E substation #180 on the southern edge of Houghton). That section hasn't been open previously.

In September the Region 9 crew completed the mowing of all accessible portions of the trail in Allegany County.

### NYSDEC Region 8 & OPRHP Genesee Region

Work began in September to stabilize the rapidly deteriorating historic stone arch culvert under the Greenway at Fowlerville Creek in the Town of York. This project stabilizes the trail surface and maintains access to private property along the rail bed. The majority of the funding for this project is coming from the Dept. of Environmental Conser-

vation (DEC) Environmental Protection Fund. Additional funding from DEC and Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) was secured to stabilize the downstream portion of the culvert from further deterioration and to extend it, while the upstream portion remains intact. The DEC's contractor is making good progress



At the downstream outlet, an excavator clears room to pour an extension. Note the temporary trusses stabilizing the stone arch.

and, as long as the favorable weather holds out, the project is expected to be completed in November.

OPRHP is attempting some poison ivy control in the area of



Upstream, the new culvert end was poured and tied-in to the existing stone arch.

Genesee Junction in Monroe County. Genesee Junction is the place where the old Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) and the present CSX Railroad crossed. It is also where the remaining active portion of the old PRR connects with the rest of the world just north of the big culvert that carries Black Creek under the GVG. That still active portion is now part of the Genesee & Wyoming System.

### Finger Lakes Trail

Over 850 miles of hiking trails in the southern part of New York State

For maps, membership, or other information, visit [www.fingerlakestrail.org](http://www.fingerlakestrail.org)

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

### The NYS Canal Corporation's annual Canalway Trail Tender Award

was awarded at the PTNY Conference to Keith Kroon of Greece, a board member and former president of the Canalway Trail Association. Keith is also a long time FOGVG member and former board member who has been involved in trail advocacy for decades.

Congratulations, Keith!

**LOCAL COMMITTEES ARE FORMING IN ALLEGANY COUNTY** If you'd like to become more involved in trail maintenance, events, trail improvements, and historical research related to canal, railway, or architectural assets near the trail, please contact Karen Ash at (585)409-5918 or [kash@frontiernet.net](mailto:kash@frontiernet.net). Meetings will be scheduled for mid-November through early December.

## Membership News - Please Join or Renew Today!

**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

**New Members:** Don & Karen Ash, Allan & Janet Baker, William Hawkins, Livingston Associates, Inc.\*, David A. Shaw, Park Ave Bike Shop\*

**Returning Members - Welcome Back:** Thomas Grant, Dr. Christine White, Gerald Wildenberg & Carol Freeman

**Renewing Members:** Richard Ash, Joe Bauman, Kay K. Bennett, Jay Bigenwald, Radford Brown, Harold & Ann Castle, Carl & Sonya Christensen, Dick & Barb De May, John & Carolyn DeHority, Tony D'Imperio & Louise Michaud, Betty Erdmann, Donald Fernberg, George & Fran Gotcsik, Lakeland Rovers, Kimberly La Mendola-Driscoll, Brian & Karen Managan, Dr. Michele Mc Call & Dr. Amy Stanley, Jean Mc Master, James McCarthy, Anthony Mittiga, Wilfred D. & Maria E. Oliver, Pedallers Bike Shop, Pete & Sue Piraino Family, Betty Rice, Peggy Rosenthal, Larry & Joy Seaman, George & Kathryn Shaw, Hinsdale Historical Society, Robert L. Stear, Mary Innes Wagner, Dave & Kathy Wells, Bill White, Charles Woolever, Robert Younger

\*New Business Sponsors

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

### Support the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway!

- Individual \$20
- Family \$25
- Supporter \$35
- Contributor \$50
- Trail blazer \$100
- Bus. Sponsor \$120
- + Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Our Key to Success

Your support of FOGVG makes it possible for us to grow as an organization and offer substantial and meaningful contributions to the Greenway partnership and development effort.

A strong level of public support, as evidenced by a dedicated and growing membership, is vital to our success.

I use the Greenway for:

- Hiking
- Biking
- Jogging
- Horseback Riding
- Birding
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snowmobiling
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Become a Member

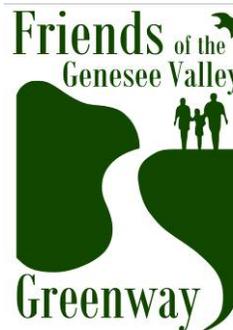
I would like to help with:

- Trail Work
- Adopt-a-Trail
- Newsletter
- Mailings
- Membership
- Fund Raising Events
- Canal History
- Railroad History
- Trail Promotion
- Lead an Outing
- Serve on Board of Directors
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of the Genesee  
Valley Greenway  
P.O. Box 42  
Mt. Morris, NY 14510

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



New  Renewing

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* (also check box below) \_\_\_\_\_

\*I want to help spread the word. In the future, please send me a link to the on-line version, and put my print copy in a public place.



Earth Share

The above membership lists include 2006 Earth Share donors not included in the June 2007 newsletter.

**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.**

## Statewide Conference Attendees Experience the Greenway

One hundred-seventy-five trail advocates from throughout the state gathered for Parks & Trails New York's Third Statewide Greenway & Community Trail Conference, *Healthy Trails, Healthy Communities*, on Sept. 28 & 29, at MCC in Rochester, NY.

FOGVG officers, Ned Holmes and Joan Schumaker, hosted a four hour field trip on the Genesee Valley Greenway, one of four area trails featured in the Friday afternoon workshops. Twenty-nine participants, including OPRHP Commissioner Carol Ash and several of her staff, were bussed to four Greenway sites that illustrated some of the successes and challenges of developing and maintaining a 90-mile greenway.



Commissioner Ash & OPRHP's Gerry Kunselman

The group's first stop was the Genesee Valley Park trail head where the Greenway, the Erie Canalway Trail, and the Genesee Riverway Trail connect and the Erie Canal and Genesee River join. Trail signs map the extent of these trails. This section of Greenway trail is paved.

The bus traveled 10 miles south to the historic village of Scottsville where the group was welcomed by Mayor Mike Souers and other village representatives.



Mayor Souers & Ned Holmes

They discussed how a NYS-DOT road bridge replacement project about six years ago resulted in revitalizing the Main Street business district. An award winning boardwalk linking Main Street and the Greenway was created and trail users became customers on Main Street. "The outcome was well worth the time and effort," Souers said. "This was really part of what turned us around."

A few miles north, in Chili, the group enjoyed a brief stop at Genesee Valley Canal Lock #2, the best preserved cut-stone lock on the Greenway. Attractive, well-designed signs provide excellent interpretation of historic canal and railroad features at all of the stops.

The final trail section visited was from Ballantyne Road to Little Black Creek Park and involved a two mile hike. The problems, including expense, involved with preservation of the unique double arch culvert were discussed. The group then took the detour along the

railroad to Scottsville Road. From that point a rail crossing needs to be defined, trail along heavily traveled Scottsville Road needs to be improved, and Little Black Creek Park is in need of attention. This section of the Greenway contains some of the "challenges" noted earlier.

The afternoon brought threats of showers but all managed to stay dry, time passed quickly, and we returned to MCC well before the dinner hour.

**Parks & Trails New York's** conference played a critical role in setting a course for the newly launched **Statewide Trails Coalition**, a consortium of nonprofits and local governments who are joining together to raise a strong and unified voice for trails in New York. At the closing conference session, participants came together to share cider and donuts and participate in an **"Idea Café."** They talked about what a Coalition might do to address a variety of critical trail issues. The issues were recorded on flip charts by conference participants as well as submitted by the nearly 60 organizations and local governments who signed on to the Coalition prior to the conference. Parks & Trails New York is processing this important feedback and will be actively communicating the results of the Idea Café and proposed next steps to all Coalition members and conference participants.

### GREENWAY EVENTS SCHEDULE

**Sunday, Nov. 11 FOGVG Annual Meeting, Hike, Potluck Dinner & Program Please See Page 8**

**Friday, Nov. 16**

Guided Hike (Hike Leader's Choice)  
Mt. Morris Dam Visitor Center  
9:00 a.m. Leader: Sharon Gailbraith. Minimum 4 miles out and back from dam through oak forest to Greenway. Option to also loop through Livingston Co. Park. Medium pace. Bring lunch, clothing, all-weather gear, appropriate footwear.  
Info: Irene at (585) 658-4321 or treeweenie@aol.com

**Sunday, Nov. 18**

Guided Hike  
Mt. Morris Dam Visitor Center  
1:00 p.m. Leader: Irene Szabo Easy two-mile walk from dam to Hogsback Overlook. RSVP.  
Info: Irene at (585) 658-4321 or treeweenie@aol.com

**Friday, Nov. 23**

Guided Hike  
Mt. Morris Dam Visitor Center  
10:00 a.m. Leader: Irene Szabo Walk off your Thanksgiving feast exploring the incredible variety of trees growing in woods and old fields between the Mt. Morris dam and the Village of Mt. Morris. RSVP.  
Info: Irene at (585) 658-4321 or treeweenie@aol.com

**Sunday, Dec. 2**

Guided Hike (Hike Leader's Choice)  
10:00 a.m. Leader: Joan Schumaker. Repeat of November 16th. Bring lunch. RSVP.  
Info: Irene at (585) 658-4321 or treeweenie@aol.com

# Friends of the Genesee Valley



# Greenway

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

[fogvg@frontiernet.net](mailto:fogvg@frontiernet.net)

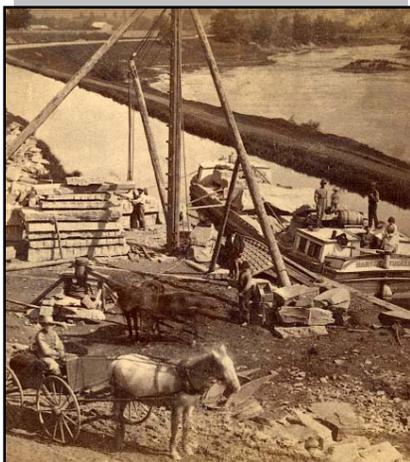
Visit our web site!  
[WWW.FOGVG.ORG](http://WWW.FOGVG.ORG)

#### Board of Directors

Edward Holmes	President
Susan Knauer	Secretary
Joan Schumaker	Treasurer

Coleridge Gill	At-Large
John Mahlendorf	At-Large
James Mullin	At-Large
John Stanton	At-Large

Nathan Cook	Monroe Co.
Peter Cappadonia	Mt. Morris
James Keough	Cuba-New Hudson
Charles F. Struble	Hinsdale



Loading bluestone onto a canal boat

Would you like to receive the *Greenway News* earlier and in color?  
If yes, send your name and e-mail address to [fogvg@frontiernet.net](mailto:fogvg@frontiernet.net)

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## Join us for a Special Event:

**Sunday, Nov. 11 2:00 p.m.**  
**Belfast, NY United Methodist Church**

FOGVG will host a **guided hike** on the Greenway, followed by a **potluck dinner** and brief meeting. The day will conclude with a **special presentation** by Allegany County Historian Craig Braack. **This event is free and open to the public.**

Hike leader Ron Abraham of Rockville, NY, a trail adopter and FOGVG member since 1999, promises an easy hike along gentle terrain, with a couple of very short hills. Participants will pass Lock 90 of the Genesee Valley Canal (1840-1878), which has much of its stonework still intact; Rockville Lake, which was built to supply water to the Genesee Valley Canal, and its stone and concrete spillway; the hamlet of Rockville (called Caseville during the canal era); and the sites of two bridges that will soon be installed on the Greenway. Please wear weather-appropriate clothing; bring a camera and water bottle.

Immediately after the hike is a potluck dinner. Please bring a place setting and dish to pass; beverages provided. A brief Annual Meeting will take place during this time.

At 6:00 p.m. guests will enjoy a lively, informative slide presentation given by Allegany County Historian Craig Braack called: **"From Canal to Rail to Trail: The Evolution of the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail"**. Against a backdrop of historic images of the Genesee Valley Canal (1840-1878) and the Pennsylvania Railroad, Rochester Branch (1862-1963), Mr. Braack will describe how transportation in this corridor has evolved and changed, and how today's Greenway Trail may be used by local communities and organizations both for public recreation and to stimulate tourism and economic activity. Mr. Braack has served as Almond Town Historian, was named Allegany County Historian in 1984, and was appointed as Tourism Specialist in 2007.

Anyone wishing to take part in the hike and potluck dinner is asked to meet at the Belfast United Methodist Church in Belfast, NY at 2:00 p.m. From there, folks will car-pool to the Route 305 parking area about five miles from Belfast, where the two-mile hike will start and end. **Space for the slide presentation is limited.** Please call 585-658-2569 for general information, or email [fogvg@frontiernet.net](mailto:fogvg@frontiernet.net). For information about the hike, please call (716) 498-8438 or email [whislinpines@yahoo.com](mailto:whislinpines@yahoo.com).