



# Trackin'

The Chautauqua Rails to Trails Newsletter

Fall 2003



## AWARDS PROGRAM

### For HIKING \* BIKING HORSEBACK RIDING

**Chautauqua Rails-To-Trails** announced a new awards program to recognize the number of miles members hike, bike or ride a horse each year.

CRT President Dr. Robert Berke said the program is designed to encourage Chautauqua County residents and visitors to become physically active while enjoying the scenic beauty of the area. He said anyone can sign up for the program by joining Chautauqua Rails-To-Trails and keeping a monthly log from October 15, 2003 to October 15, 2004.

"There are five different age categories for each division," Berke said. "CRT has something for everyone from the very young, to the young at heart."

The winner of each age category, in each division, accumulating the most miles will receive a trophy during a banquet to be held next October. The following four places will receive ribbons. The overall winner accumulating the most miles from all divisions will be given a plaque.

The age categories are as follows: **0 – 12, 13 –17, 18- 35, 36- 50 and 51 and over.** Mileage forms must be turned into Trail Manager Jim Fincher every three months with the participant's name, address, activity, age group and mileage totals. Participants' ages will be determined as of October 15, 2003. Miles may be accumulated in areas other than CRT trails.

Chautauqua Rails-To-Trails, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to converting old railroad beds to multi-use trails for the public to enjoy. Anyone wishing to join CRT can do so by calling (716) 269-3666 or mailing your name, address, phone number and the membership fee to: CRT, P.O. Box 151, Mayville, NY 14757-0151. The cost of an individual membership is \$20 or \$35 for a family membership.

*(There is a membership form on the back page of this newsletter)*

**A Sincere Thank You** to the following for their support of  
the Chautauqua Rails to Trails' Mission.

**Sustaining Members**

Jean Haynes  
Bruce Winqvist and Susan Giannantonio  
Dunkirk-Fredonia Lions Club

Webbs Captains Table  
Mr and Mrs Ted Husted

**Patrons**

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Tyler C. Swanson  
Jan and Diane Williams  
William P. Tobbe

**Individual and Family Members**

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Dennis and Donna Anderson  
Barbara Anderson  
Daniel Anderson  
Jerry & Connie Vogt: Vogt  
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Debra and Michael Zibreg  
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Hon. Arthur A. Wellman  
Kenneth and Lois Strickler  
Don Milks  
Ralph Josephson  
William Hipwell  
Michael Felsman  
Julie Erickson  
Betty J. Erickson  
Frank and Catherine Clark  
Todd and Susan Bauer  
Debra and Michael Zibreg  
Betsy and David Shepherd  
Shirley A. Sember  
Ted Searle  
Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Samter  
Brian and Judy Rapp  
Dusty and Theo Nelson  
Marcia and William de la Cerda  
Louis & Anne Barresi  
John & Claire Connelly

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Erickson  
George & Ginny Griffin  
The Johnston Family of  
Ashville  
John & Candace Kemp  
Bradford Nelson  
Mike Occhioner  
Nancy K. Pabody  
Robert Raynor  
Stephen Raynor  
Joan A. Smith  
Judith Ann Wenning  
Nancy Andrews  
Andrea Andrews & Dale Mirth  
Eric & Marsha Hern  
John Ellison & Deborah  
Williams  
Bruce & Charlene Kidder  
Kenneth & Roberta Hollander  
Joe and Cathy Notaro  
Michael Rosing  
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Carolyn Gorczyca & Bob Sage  
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Dorothy Rose  
James & Anne Smith  
Tamme Stefan  
Sam & Evelyn Thorndike  
Lesley Williamson  
Diane Clark & William Moran  
Thomas Dorey  
Thomas Faber  
Paul F. Hess  
Karen & Mark Klose  
Harold & Joan Mannion  
Bruce Shearman

**CRT** has its regularly  
scheduled board meetings the  
first Monday of each month.  
The meetings are held at the  
Old Railroad Depot in Mayville.  
NY.  
Time is 7 PM.

If you would like to help in the  
planning or are just interested  
in what we are planning, feel  
free to attend the board  
meetings. **Join us**

**Opportunities for Giving**

Why should we believe in and support Rails to Trails?

- To provide safe, attractive recreational opportunities -fight obesity: increase fitness
- To provide places to observe and learn about nature.
- To preserve part of the rich Railroad history of this county.
- To preserve rail corridors for possible future use.
- Help add to the economic health of the county.

You can help support Rails to Trails by donating money. Donations can be for specific items and or projects, or can be for general needs.

*For more information call (716)269-3666*

**The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that  
will outlast it. - William James**

## Use of Trail Survey

## Please Help Us

Please check the uses you make of the trail system:

- Hiking       Skiing  
 Running     Snowmobiling  
 Biking       Bird Watching  
 Horseback Riding

To help us plan, it would be appreciated if you would complete the survey and mail it to:

Chautauqua Rails to Trails  
P.O.Box 151  
Maville, NY 14757-0151

Approximately how often per year do you use the trail for one or more of those purposes?: \_\_\_\_\_.

Which sections of the trails do you most often use? \_\_\_\_\_

If you provide your email address we can send you notices of activities, news, and the like:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(We will keep your address private and in our files only.)

**To save money for direct use on the trail system,**

- Would you be interested in receiving Trackin' electronically via email attachment? \_\_\_\_\_
- Would you prefer to receive your Membership Notice and Tax Filing Form by email? \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments or suggestions about the trails or the organization?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Autumn Fires

by

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

In the other gardens  
And all up the vale,  
From the autumn bonfires  
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over  
And all the summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes,  
The gray smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!  
Something bright in all!  
Flowers in the summer,  
Fires in the fall!

## Congratulations

**Dr. Robert Berke**

The Recipient Of The

**Chautauqua Leadership Network's  
2003 Award**

For

**Civic Accomplishments**

Dr. Berke is a founding member of Chautauqua Rails to Trails and is currently its president..

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# Fincher Report

by

*Jim Fincher, trail manager*

We have received notice from the New York and Lake Erie Railroad that the old right-of-way from Forestville/Sheridan area to the county line is available for purchase. If a trail, this corridor could provide a means of access to the Cattaraugus County trails and to all the trails to the east of there. If there is anyone out there who would be willing to work with us on obtaining and developing that line as a trail, please contact us.

Unfortunately, the grant application we submitted that would have allowed us to buy the right-of-way known as Wheeler's Gulf, in the Town of Pomfret, was not approved. The owner has now agreed to sell the property to another party early next year. We've transferred the Clymer to Corry right-of-way to the Northwest Pennsylvania Trail Association and they plan to develop it into the first trail in their portfolio of trails. We look forward to helping them in their efforts. We have also applied for grants that would allow us to refurbish the old Portage/Trolley line trail from Mayville to Quillan Road in Westfield. One application was successful and one was not. We'll keep trying for money to complete the project. Our thanks to the landowners for allowing us to work on this historic trail. We are part of an approved grant that, for us, may repair the big slide on the Diggs trail. We'll hear more about that in the spring.

Let me remind everyone that we are 'reserving' the Diggs trail, from Bentley Rd to Rt. 430, South of Mayville, as a cross-country skiing trail only. That segment is not a snowmobile trail or on any snowmobile trail maps.

We have a nice exhibit/demonstration that we can take where appropriate. We recently took it to a health fair at Clymer Central School. We also took it to a youth agency fair at Chautauqua Lake Central School. We plan to take it to a statewide bird conference here in the area at the end of October.

We participated in meetings leading to a waterfront revitalization plan, updated our projects as listed in the Southern Tier West Comprehensive Project List, and continued our membership in the Seneca Trail Resource Conservation and Development Agency. We try to get around and spread the word of the value of trails. Our work with high school students continues, and may increase.

Some of you may have noticed the water over the trail just north of Titus Rd, near Sherman. We are battling the beavers in that area. They have plugged the pipe that drains one side of the swamp to the other and they have repeatedly plugged both large drainpipes under Titus Rd. We are doing what we can to fix the problem without killing the busy little beavers. The water is only a few inches deep and isn't yet doing any great damage to the trail, which means the trail is passable, but be aware you might get wet feet. If you have an idea on how to fix the problem, let us know. We need ideas!

My thanks to all of you who have helped us with various projects on the trail. We especially thank Dick Rockwell, Curtis Witherow, Tom Walsh, Bill Hussey and Kent Knappenberger for mowing the trail. Without their help, we'd be thigh high in grass and weeds.

Thanks for your membership, your support of the organization, and for using the trails. I've started ending discussions about Rails to Trails with the phrase, "Take a Hike! It's good for you health".

**It's true.  
'Take a hike!  
It's good for your health'.**

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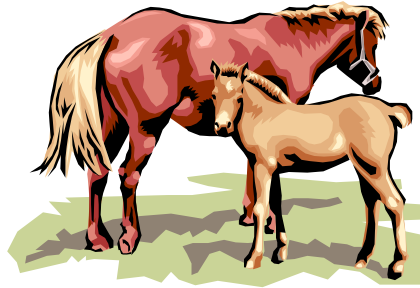
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## **FROM THE CORRAL**

By Carolyn Witt

The corral gates are open every fall as equestrians from across the area hit the trails to view the foliage and enjoy cooler temperatures without those pesky flies and mosquitoes to bother your horse. It is the best time of year to enjoy our trails and the wildlife that abounds on them.

Winter riding can also be fun if you are properly prepared. The important thing to remember is to wear clothing in layers and cover your head. I find that riding in chaps keeps your legs nice and toasty while giving you the flexibility you need to sit and cue your horse. If your fingers get cold, you can always slip them in between the horse and the saddle pad to get them warm again or purchase winter riding gloves. For your horse's comfort, please grease the underside of your



horse's hooves to prevent ice balls from forming and limiting your horse's movement. Ask your farrier about the benefits of having your horse shod with snow pads. Always cool your horse down before putting him away. Never put a wet horse away or put a blanket on him with out drying him out first. Riding a horse strenuously below 20 degrees Fahrenheit can frostbite your horse's lungs.

Last, but not least, please be careful during hunting season. Wear plenty of fluorescent orange to help distinguish your horse

from a deer. Those with property adjoining CRT trails should be advised it is not permitted to hunt from the trails.

I have been riding a new horse this year. His name is Peppy. As a former cutting horse used to sort cattle, he is inclined every once in a while to try and herd passing hikers on the trail. I would like to apologize in advance for any problems that may occur on Peppy's behalf. He has improved greatly. He is not dangerous. He merely drops back on his haunches waiting for someone to try and break free of his imaginary hiking "herd". I am eventually going to have to buy a couple of calves for him to chase or start taking him to team penning practices. Anyone with information about team penning, please call me at (814) 489-3025. Peppy and I hope to see you out on the trail soon.

### **Audubon Programs:**

The **First Friday Lunch Bunch** meets the first Friday of most months for a nature-related talk at 11am, followed by social time. Bring your own lunch. Coffee and tea are provided. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.

November 7th's topic is *Backyard Habitats*. A facilitator from the National Wildlife Federation will share information about becoming a certified backyard habitat consultant. (Audubon will host the training for this in March... See details below.)

**Mark every First Friday on your calendar now through May.**

Topics for future sessions will hopefully include:

Tom Erlandson speaking on the *Secrets of Chautauqua Lake*.

Larry Anderson speaking on *The History of Allegany State Park*.

Ken Roblee of the DEC reporting on *The Research on Lake Erie on Avian Botulism*, and more!

**Yes** I want to support CRT's effort to change the abandoned rail lines of Chautauqua County into multi-use trails, which can be enjoyed by all.

Individual \$20       Sustaining \$100  
 Family \$35       Benefactor \$500  
 Patron \$50       Sponsor \$1000 up  
 Business Partner \$100/\$200 per year for 10 years

Name- \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Chautauqua Rails to Trails  
PO Box 151  
Mayville, NY 14757-0151

CRT website: [www2.cecomet.net/crtt](http://www2.cecomet.net/crtt)

## E-MAIL

Many people prefer to receive mail through their computer's e-mail system rather than through the postal service. We want to offer that option for the Trackin' newsletter.

If you'd rather receive future copies of Trackin' via e-mail, please send us an e-mail at [crtt@cecomet.net](mailto:crtt@cecomet.net) with Trackin' by e-mail as the subject, and we'll put you on the list. E-mail Trackin's would be in color.

*(We would not ever sell or give your e-mail address to anyone. There is too much spam on the Internet now, and we want no part in increasing it.)*

**To err is human--and to blame it on a computer is even more so. ---- Robert Orben**



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