

Parks & Trails New York's
I LOVE MY PARK days

Left: 2019 Volunteers, Mt. Morris
Photo by Dwight Folts

Spring 2020

Saturday, May 2, 2020

Parks & Trails New York's

I LOVE MY PARK days **Greenway Work Sites**

Saturday, May 2, I Love My Park Day (ILMPD) – I Love My Park Day is an annual event that brings together thousands of volunteers statewide to celebrate and enhance New York's parks and historic sites. This year there are four work sites for the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park. Volunteers are needed for the following projects:

1. **Scottsville: A Perfect Opportunity for Families to Volunteer** In coordination with events led by the Village of Scottsville, there will be a general cleaning of the **Genesee Valley Greenway** in the village from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Meet at the parking lot in Canawaugus Park, Scottsville (43.018276, -77.747667) to check-in, pick up a T-shirt (while supplies last) and a heavy-duty garbage bag. Then pick a section of trail. Scottsville-West Henrietta Rd (Rt 253) is almost a full mile north, while Quaker Rd (Rt 251) is almost a full mile south. Don't forget the bridge! We are asking volunteers to pick up litter, rake, and remove the small sticks that litter the trail in spring. Volunteers should bring water, gloves, rakes and insect repellent. Snacks will be available.
2. **Mount Morris: A Perfect Opportunity for Families to Volunteer** In coordination with events led by the Village of Mt. Morris, there will be a general cleaning of the **Genesee Valley Greenway** in the Village of Mt. Morris from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Meet at the parking lot on East State St. (Rt 408) to check-in (42.726340, -77.872477), pick up a T-shirt (while supplies last) and a heavy-duty garbage bag. Then choose a section of trail between the parking lot near the RG&E building by the bridge over the Genesee River, and the Connor Avenue area. We are asking volunteers to pick up litter, rake, and remove the small sticks that litter the trail in spring. Volunteers should bring water, gloves, rakes and insect repellent. Snacks will be available.
3. **Oakland:** Help us uncover history as we tackle the **flight of Genesee Valley Canal locks** from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Meet by the small parking lot on Oakland Road off Rt 436 (42.578161, -77.971220) Be prepared to

park along the sides of Rt. 436 or Oakland Road and please use caution. Volunteers should bring water, gloves, rakes, pruning shears/brush cutters, insect repellent, wear good fitting shoes (work boot type recommended, no sandals) and protective clothing to guard against possible damaging brush, poison ivy, and ticks. Snacks will be available and **lunch will be provided at about 1 pm at the nearby Nunda Historical Society pavilion on Rt. 436, east of Oakland.**

4. **Hinsdale: A Perfect Opportunity for Families to Volunteer** In coordination with events led by local municipalities and organizations, there will be a general cleaning of Genesee Valley Greenway State Park in Hinsdale from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Department (3832 Main St., Hinsdale) to check-in, pick up a T-shirt (while supplies last) and a heavy-duty garbage bag, and then head out onto the trail. After checking in, volunteers can park closer to the trail head on Old Rd 16 or walk from meeting location. We are asking volunteers to pick up litter, garbage, rake, and remove the small sticks that are scattered along the trail after our winter storms. Snacks will be available, and **lunch will be provided afterwards by the Town of Hinsdale.** Please bring garden gloves, rakes, water, insect repellent.

Volunteers will receive ILMPD T-shirts. We encourage participants to Register for one of these work sites by using the special I Love My Park site at <http://www.ptny.org/ilovemypark/> since this avoids the need to complete Volunteer Service and Photo Release forms at the work site on May 2. If you have questions or potential group registrations, please email fogvg@frontiernet.net or call Joan Schumaker at 585-490-3302. If necessary, volunteers may also register by using this contact information.

President's Message

We certainly got 2020 off to a grand start with three very successful first day hikes. Thanks to Park Manager Kristine Uribe for planning all three events. The Henrietta Hill & Gully Snowmobile Club and the Caledonia Trail Blazers were ready to make the Avon event both a ride & hike event but, without snow, it became just a hike. However, both clubs helped provide food and a warm fire for everyone to enjoy on a very cold day. We thank them for their support and participation. I echo Kristine's thanks to the Palmer Opera House folks for again supporting a most successful 1st Day Hike in Cuba and to the Hinsdale Historical Society for their help with the very first Hinsdale 1st Day Hike. See Kristine's article on page 6.

Please consider volunteering to help the Greenway on May 2nd for I Love My Park Day. We have four work sites this year so there should be one near you. If you know of a group that would like to volunteer, please have them contact me to register. See the page 1 for details.

The Friends continue to partner with the REDI Genesee Valley Region Network to help advance FOGVG goals for communities along the Greenway. This includes a new project that will result in a comprehensive digital trail guide showing the system of trails, cycling routes, and walking paths that make up the broader Genesee Valley Region. If this new grant application is successful, we will be seeking volunteers to get out on nearby trails to help obtain the digital information needed for this map. See article on page 5.

Let me call your attention to our new Interactive Map of the Greenway available on our website or at map.fogvg.org. Greenway information from this digital map will be used for the REDI Trail Guide mentioned above. This map will also provide the basic information needed to produce an updated paper map for trail users. See article on page 4.

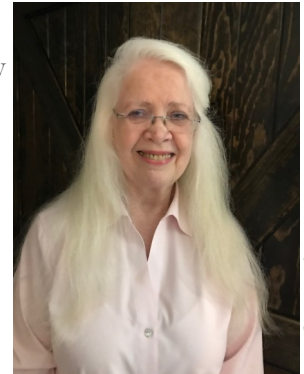
The GVGSP Enthusiasts Meet Up Group now has over 490 members and I look forward to their active participation in Greenway events this coming year. If members of the Friends join this group and share Greenway experiences,

that will help encourage Meet Up group members to really become Enthusiasts! Join at <https://www.meetup.com/Genesee-Valley-Greenway-State-Park-Enthusiasts>. Please note that by being a member of this Meet Up Group you will receive automatic reminders of Greenway events.

I am going to repeat myself here but we do need to offer a continuing variety of trail activities for outdoor enthusiasts throughout the year. If you belong to a user group that makes use of regional trails for skiing, cycling, hiking, horseback riding, etc., suggest that your leaders consider using the Greenway. Please have them contact me since the Friends would be pleased to promote trail activities that will introduce more people to the Greenway. Also, please contact me if you are interested in leading an event.

In closing, I want to recognize the passing of Bud Van Arsdale and extend our condolences to his family. Bud was most instrumental in the creation of the Genesee Valley Greenway and was a strong supporter for many years. Please see the tribute to Bud authored by Fran Gotcsik, former Executive Director of the Friends and a current FOGVG Director.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact any board member or contact me at fogvg@frontiernet.net or call 585-490-3302. Enjoy the Greenway!



Janet Hughes

Email: fogvg@frontiernet.net
Telephone: 585-490-3302



Sorry everyone, but all three of the planned egg hunts on the Greenway have been postponed for now due to concern about spreading COVID-19. When all restrictions are lifted, you can bet it will be game on!

Stay safe!

A Tribute to Bud Van Arsdale

Fran Gotcsik

It is with great sadness that we recently learned of the passing of Charles "Bud" Van Arsdale at age 96. Bud was a life-long resident of Castile and one of the Genesee Valley Greenway's most important pioneers. In 1991, Bud was chosen as co-chair of the Genesee Valley Greenway Steering Committee, the organization that launched and guided the initial development of the Greenway project from 1991 to 1994. Without Bud's leadership, the Genesee Valley Greenway, considered at the time by some to be a scary unknown, may never have gotten off the ground.

As the newly hired Local Coordinator for the Greenway, I met Bud on May 1, 1991, just prior to the first steering committee meeting held in Geneseo and the public meeting held at the Yard of Ale in Piffard. It was instantly obvious that his energy and enthusiasm, and the trust and respect that Bud had in the Livingston and Wyoming County communities made him the perfect choice to help lead this novel fledgling effort. Bud's highly successful career at the Bank of Castile was legendary, as were the multiple ways that he and his family had assisted others in the community and contributed to and participated in multiple nonprofit causes. Bud grew up close to Letchworth State Park and in promoting the importance of creating the Greenway, he would reminisce fondly about the days he, his brothers and cousins spent roaming the Park and how critical those experiences had been to developing his love for outdoor adventure and his commitment to environmental conservation. Bud felt the Greenway could offer everyone living in the multiple towns along the trail corridor the same opportunity to freely access, enjoy, and be inspired by the area's natural resources as he had been as a boy.

In 1991 there was little to no understanding of the concept of a greenway or a multi-use trail connecting many communities. To most people, trails were just paths in the woods. A local newspaper proclaimed the Greenway was only for bunny huggers. While fears of this new idea led to



Supplied by the family

Charles "Bud" Van Arsdale

some lively public meetings, Bud's presence at those meetings, as well as his influence and knowledge of the community and its leaders, lent needed credibility to the Greenway effort. It is notable that the first communities that agreed to develop their section of trail were Mt. Morris and Nunda in Livingston County where Bud was well known and respected.

Bud would always ask how things were going with the Greenway and never lost interest in the importance of the environment in our area, even after he moved to a Massachusetts retirement facility more than a decade ago. We are honored and most grateful that Bud requested that memorials in his honor be sent to the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway or the Genesee Valley Conservancy.



Interactive Greenway Map Now Available

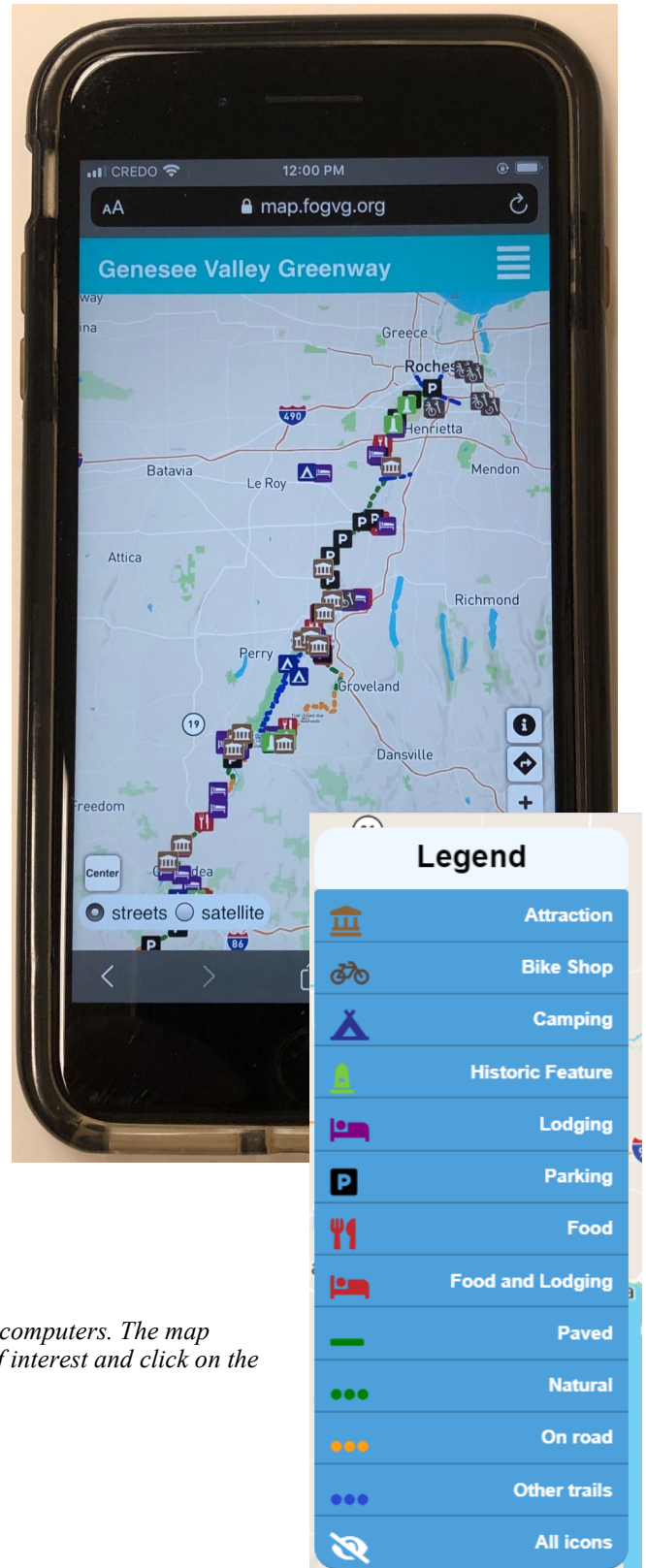
Joan Schumaker

This new map was made possible through a Stewardship and Public Access Capacity Grant, a NYS and Trail Partnership grant, administered by Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), a nonprofit advocacy organization. This grant is supporting the creation of a new website, the interactive map, an updated paper map and promotional rack cards. These new and updated resources for our trail users will certainly improve their Greenway experience and help the Friends promote the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park. We appreciate the opportunities this grant is providing the Friends.

This entire project got off to a late start, but the new website will be launched soon. Meanwhile, the new interactive map is ready and has been added to our current website at www.fogvg.org. The map can also be accessed directly at www.map.fogvg.org to display on your main computer or cell phone. I worked with our cartographer Steve Spindler over a number of months to create this map and want to thank Park Manager Kristine Uribe for confirming the route of the GVG and providing comments as we developed this map. Thanks also to Fran Gotcsik who provided valuable guidance during this process. This map will provide the basic information needed for producing an updated paper map.

Please check out this new Web Map. I suggest you read the information icon, especially if you are not familiar with functions used in website maps. Select street or satellite view, find locations of parking areas, restaurants, lodging, campsites, nearby trails and attractions, etc., determine the distance you need to travel on trail or off, and find the GPS at your location. The distance measure function may require a little practice. If you are cycling or hiking the Greenway and want to see how far you need to travel, I suggest you indicate "walking" and enter both your starting and ending points on the trail. If the distance marker indicates travel on a nearby road, you may need to break your travel selection into shorter segments to stay on the trail, perhaps breaking where there is a road intersection. We will be working to improve the functionality of this feature. Please send any corrections or suggestions to me at fogvg@frontiernet.net

The interactive Greenway map is available on phones and on computers. The map looks cluttered in this picture, but you can zoom in on areas of interest and click on the icons in the legend to hide or view individual features.



FOGVG & Genesee Valley Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) Initiatives

Joan Schumaker

I introduced you to the current REDI project and the first workshop in the 2019 Winter Greenway News. The second REDI Workshop was held at Cuba's historic Palmer Opera House on February 7th and, despite the very wintry weather, more than 30 stakeholders from five counties in the rural Genesee Valley Region attended, including the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway. The REDI planning initiative involves Letchworth Gateway Villages (LGV) and over 60 other organizations, including the FOGVG and Genesee River Wilds. To learn more visit <https://www.leitchworthgatewayvillages.org/redi-usda>

Cuba leaders shared how they are working collaboratively to boost their local economy through their natural and historical assets. Workshop participants also heard updates from the various working groups, discussed priorities and short-term actions, and considered opportunities to pursue in the next 6 months. The working groups are as follows:

- Marketing Collaboration (Genesee Valley Map Guide Itineraries + Ambassadors)
- On-demand rural transportation
- Municipal Planning (Trail Town/Hospitality Hub Development)
- Trails visibility + management

The Wealthworks Planning Process was reviewed and the REDI project is now in Phase III, the Projects and Planning Cycle. This phase focuses on creating specific plans to activate based upon the working groups formed and can include collaborative grant applications.

A major goal of the workshop was to hone in on tangible deliverables / products to be produced in the next 6-8 months that support collaboration and create the foundation for growing a regional outdoor recreation destination.

Some opportunities being considered within the next six months include a Genesee Valley Heritage Area Plan, collaborative funding opportunities (EDA, USDA, NBRC, AARP, CFA, etc...), formal cooperative structures or Memoranda of Understanding, and an interagency panel.

Heritage Areas in New York State are defined as "places where unique qualities of geography, history, and culture create a distinctive identity that becomes the focus of the four heritage goals: preservation of significant resources; education that interprets lessons from the past; recreation and leisure activities; and economic revitalization for sustainable communities."

REDI stakeholders in the Genesee Valley Region are already involved in many activities that support the above definition. Recognition as a Heritage Area would provide structure for the REDI planning process, create a cooperative structure for planning beyond REDI, result in more competitive state-level planning and capital grants, and support long-term environmental stewardship, tourism, and community and economic development in the Genesee Valley Region. Discussion concerning the Genesee Valley Heritage Area Management Plan centered around total funding needed for both a grant application and the "Plan," as well as the timing of a grant application from REDI.

Another opportunity for action is to fill a key gap identified by REDI stakeholders, the lack of a comprehensive, digital trail guide that shows the system of trails, cycling routes, and walking paths that make up the broader Genesee Valley Region. Plans are to use USDA Rural Business Development funds to support the REDI networks' efforts to develop a comprehensive, digital trail mapping tool and training program for the rural Genesee Valley Region. If you are interested in this project, here is [a brief video from the Montana Wilderness Association](#) that uses the mapping tool. For those of you reading our paper version, the full link is too cumbersome, so just know that users in Montana describe how they are creating a state-wide trails map, showing the extent and location of each of several different kinds of trails, with links to each trail's organization for more current information and larger scale maps. This system depends upon input from users about conditions.

The Village of Perry will be applying for funding on behalf of the LGV initiative and partner communities and organizations. The FOGVG is partnering in this REDI Digital Trail Mapping Project and is in full support of this grant application.



First Day Hikes 2020

Kristine Uribe, Park Manager Genesee Valley Greenway

First Day Hikes is a free program offered by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation. New Yorkers and tourists alike are invited to celebrate the New Year at one of the 75+ hikes held at state parks, historic sites, wildlife areas, trails, and public lands across the Empire State.

This year, it took many villages to ring in the New Year along the Greenway. The nine year old State Park celebrated with offering hikes in three different locations, Avon, Cuba, and Hinsdale. The success of each event was entirely due to the various organizations and numerous volunteers who gave up their time to lend a hand for some fun along their section of beloved trail. Thanks to all who donated, volunteered and participated!

Hinsdale is celebrating their 200th anniversary this year and decided to kick off their momentous occasion with a hike on the Greenway! Sponsored and led by the Hinsdale Historical Society, a group of about 30 folks took a two-mile hike on that snowy morning along Oil Creek, sipping hot cocoa, sharing stories, and making memories. The Greenway and Friends of the Greenway, along with other local organizations will work together again to co-host an egg hunt on Saturday, April 4th. Please check out the Hinsdale Bicentennial Calendar of Events at: <http://hinsdaleny.org/html/bicentennial.html>. They have festivities planned throughout the entire year.

The hike event in Cuba wouldn't have been as successful as it was had it not been for its host, The Palmer Opera House. For the second year in a row, folks were able to gather at the Palmer both before and after the hike for restroom access, hot beverages, snacks and just down-home camaraderie. The hike was led by Mike Landowski, resident interpreter at the Humphrey Nature Center in Letchworth State Park. Mike and 40 outdoor-loving fans (and a few four-legged friends) walked west from the parking area on Bull Street, to the one located on Old West Cuba Road.

The most northern celebration took place in the Erie Attica Parking Area, off Rt 5 on the west side of the Village of Avon. This parking area was originally created with our

snowmobiling culture in mind, and it was time to shine the spotlight on them. The Henrietta Hill & Gully Riders and the Caledonia Trailblazers took the reins, or the throttle so to speak, and brought in power, shelter, a BBQ to cook an almost endless supply of hot dogs and hamburgers, crafts for the kids, and oodles of donuts. The Friends of the GVG assisted the snowmobile groups with coffees, teas and hot cocoa, and Mayor Freeman even brought the fire ring and wood! Everyone had a great time tailgating, even though



there wasn't any snow. The snowmobile ride turned into a short hike down the Erie-Attica to the Greenway and was led by Fran Gotschik, one of the founding Mothers of the Genesee Valley Greenway.

If anyone is interested in starting up a First Day Hike in your section of trail for 2021, please contact Park Manager, Kristine Uribe (585) 493-3614.



Top: Approximately 40 people were here to walk the snowless Erie Attica Branch trail west a mile to the Greenway.

Bottom: The two snowmobile clubs provided food that was cooked for participants, for a nice new feature on this day!

Photos above by Kristine Uribe

First Day Hikes ... more photos



Left: At the west end of Cuba's trail section, an old bridge from the Erie Railroad flew over the Pennsylvania Railroad here. This was the Erie Hi-Line which made an angled shortcut from near the south end of Letchworth toward the Erie line across the southern tier, eliminating the trip up to Buffalo for a faster route to Ohio.



Right: Cuba provided plentiful snacks, too, at the Palmer Opera House. A new standard is being set for future hosts!

Cuba photos by Marilee Patterer

Membership News

Did you make the list?

The FOGVG membership year is from September 1 through August 31 and we are missing some of our regular members. Check the updated 2019-20 Membership List below to see if you are listed. If you are not presently a member, please renew or become a new member. Please let us know if you think our records are wrong. **Note: You may have been confused by the membership list in the last newsletter. It was mistakenly labeled 2019-20 Members, but only those in bold were already members for 2019-20. Sorry about that!**

To join or renew, use the membership envelope in this newsletter or go to our website at www.fogvg.org where you can either download a form or complete your membership and payment online.

Join the Friends to ensure that you continue to receive the newsletter electronically or by the USPS. As a member you may elect to have paper newsletters mailed to you.

As usual, a BIG THANK YOU to MEMBERS & FRIENDS for your generous support.

Additional 2019-20 Members since the Winter 2019 News

#*Village of Avon
 *Kay K. Bennett
 *Louise Bickel
 Harold & Ann Castle
 David & Sandy Crowley
 #*Lisa A. D'Angelo
 Joyce & Mike Ermer
 Dave Fergusson
 Jon Kapecki & Jeanne Kaeding
 Wilfred & Maria Oliver

Pete & Sue Piraino Family
 Jean Richmond
 Ronald & Linda Sallade
 Robert Sprague
 Mary Innes Wagner
 *Greg Wysocki

Non Member Donations

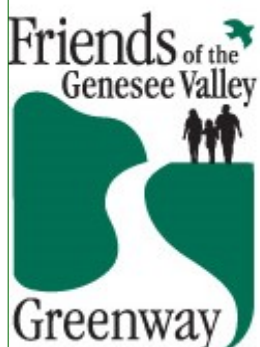
*Highlander Cycle Tour

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Charles "Bud" Van Arsdale

*Laurie & Michael Clark
 Richard & Maria Walczak

* Membership/Donation of \$100 or more – Thank you!
 # New Member in 2019-20
 Welcome!



P.O. Box 42
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
585-658-2569
fogvg@frontiernet.net

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

Board of Directors

Joan Schumaker
President

Davies Nagel
Vice-President
Joe Patterer
Vice-President

Pam Hill
Secretary
Fran Gotsik
Treasurer

Crystal Abers
Coleridge Gill
Jeff Goodyear
Pam Hill
Marilee Patterer
Carl Schoenthal
Paul Schutt
Steph Spittal
Charles Struble
Irene Szabo

Irene Szabo
Newsletter Editor

Jo Taylor
Layout

Send your photos and
stories to Irene at
treeweenie@aol.com

Like Us On
facebook 

[www.facebook.com/
FOGVG/](http://www.facebook.com/FOGVG/)

[www.facebook.com/
Genesee-Valley-
Greenway-State-Park-
475076135976335/](http://www.facebook.com/Genesee-Valley-Greenway-State-Park-475076135976335/)

Be "green" and receive the Greenway News earlier.
Send your name and email address to fogvg@frontiernet.net

Spring Greenway Events

The Genesee Valley Greenway State Park GVGSP is again offering their Historic Interpretive Hike Series. The guide will incorporate the history of the town in which the hike is located, point out historic canal and railroad features, and note interesting natural features along the way. Hikes will be held on the second Saturday of each month (April through October), begin at 10 a.m., last approximately 2-3 hrs, and take place on easy flat trail with a mixed surface of grass, cinders or stone dust. Sections near Rochester are paved.

Individual hikes are listed below and are part of the 14 hikes in the *Wegmans Passport to Wellness Program*. Completion of hikes in this series makes the trail user eligible for Wegmans grocery coupons or a NYS Parks Empire Passport. See details at <http://fogvg.org/wegmans-passport-program/>

Watch for additions to this schedule on www.fogvg.org, <https://www.meetup.com/Genesee-Valley-Greenway-State-Park-Enthusiasts> and https://www.facebook.com/pg/FOGVG/posts/?ref=page_internal

Saturday, April 11, 10 am: Historic Interpretive Hike Series - Hike #6: York Landing to Fowlerville Road, York, Livingston County. Take River Rd north from Rt 63 or south from Rt 20. Turn east onto York Landing Rd. Park and meet at the trailhead parking lot located at the end of the road (42.864631, -77.851023). Hiking north, roundtrip of entire section is 5.2 miles, roundtrip to Wegmans trail marker is 3.1 miles. See description at beginning of this Events List. *Includes: former canal turning basins and views of Genesee River.* Questions: fogvg@frontiernet.net or (585) 493-3614

Monday, April 27, 11 am: Greenway Partner Meeting at Humphrey Nature Center, 6773 Trailside Road, Castile, NY. Visitors welcome.

Saturday, May 2, I Love My Park Day – Four Greenway work sites and Registration Details are on page 1 of this newsletter.

Saturday, May 9, 10:00 am: Historic Interpretive Hike Series - Hike #7: Town of Leicester, Livingston Co. (Cuylerville to Piffard) Take Route 20A east from the Village of Leicester or west from Geneseo. Park and meet at the trailhead parking lot located on the north side of 20A in the Hamlet of Cuylerville. (42.777354, -77.870262). *Enjoy scenic vistas of the Genesee River, see several ponds and pastoral landscapes along the way.* Starting at Mile 30 to Mile 27 (traveling **NORTH**); 7.5 miles (round trip) 3.5 miles to Wegmans marker and back. See description at beginning of this Events List. Sponsored by GVG State Park Questions: fogvg@frontiernet.net or (585) 493-3614

Saturday, June 6, National Trails Day - Save the date and watch for details.

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 am: Historic Interpretive Hike Series – Hike #10: Oakland Road to Short Tract Road This hike is in Livingston County and starts in the Hamlet of Oakland. Park and meet at the parking area on the west side of Oakland Rd. just north of Route 436. (42.578161, -77.971220) Easy, flat trail with grass surface. Wooded walk offers views of Locks #54 – #59 and is also the beginning of the "Deep Cut." 2 miles round trip

Monday, June 22, 11 am: Greenway Partner Meeting at Letchworth State Park's Humphrey Nature Center, 6773 Trailside Road, Castile, NY. Visitors welcome.

Historic Hike Series continues on 2nd Saturdays at 10 am: July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, and Oct. 10

Greenway Meetings continue on 4th Mondays at Humphrey Nature Center, 11 am: July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 28, Oct. 25, Dec. 28.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, Sept. 13: Location TBA