



Signals

News and notes from the
Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association
Highland, NY 12528
www.hudsonvalleyrailtrail.net

Volume 8 Number 3

WINTER 2011/2012

WinterFest 2012 Is Just Around The Corner

The Hudson Valley Rail Trail's Annual WinterFest will be celebrating its 15th year. It always has lots of things for kids and adults to do and enjoy.

The kids' program will again be in full swing to keep them entertained. The popular Chili Tasting contest pits over 20 local food vendors vying for "Best of Fest" prize for the finest tasting chili. Other delights include free tractor drawn hayrides through the trail's winter wonderland and a huge bonfire where you can warm up, enjoy free roasted chestnuts and toast free marshmallows. (See more pictures of a past WinterFest on page 3)

WinterFest is on Saturday, January 14th, 11am to 2pm. The site is the Rail Trail Depot in Highland at 101 New Paltz Road. Admission is \$2; children 5 years of age and under admitted free. ♦

INSIDE: New Signs, p. 6
"... let users know of places just off the trail where they can go for food, shopping and sights"



Doing A Lowe's Wooden Project

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Highland Rotarians Dish Out Cups of Chili

President's Message

It is with great regret that we accept the resignation of Everton Henriques from our Board of Directors. Everton was our organization's first president and one of the trio of Highland Rotarians who started the Rail Trail. Since he moved away from the area, Everton has felt he could not continue the level of involvement he has had during his long years of service to the Trail and local community.

The Hudson Valley Rail Trail presentation at the Ulster County Trails Conference by Ray Costantino, HVRTA Past President and Ted Kolankowski, Barton & Loguidice., engineers for the Hudson Valley Rail Trail expansions was a real "Success Story". After Ray's presentation, many attendees spoke with Ray about how we were able to make the Hudson Valley Rail Trail a reality. They were also very interested in the Feasibility Study that was recently completed by the Southern Ulster Alliance studying the feasibility of linking the Hudson Valley Rail Trail to the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning Department, informed the attendees that this "gap" closure is very important to the local economy as well the importance of connecting all the trails throughout the Hudson Valley.

The overwhelming popularity of Walkway Over the Hudson and its connection to the Hudson Valley Rail Trail will only grow. It is very important for all of us to continue to support the westward expansion of the Hudson Valley Rail Trail and its eventual connecting to the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail.

Happy trails,

Claire

Claire R. Costantino, President
Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association, Inc.



New Stone Bench Along Rail Trail



Signals

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Thank You, Everton!

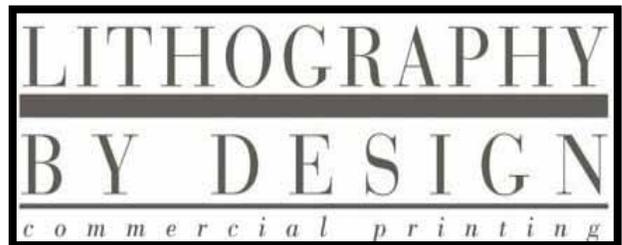
After 15 plus years of supporting development of the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, Everton Henriques has tendered his resignation from our Board of Directors. Everton was extremely instrumental in the creation of the trail and was awarded the "Conservation Hero" Award by the National Parks Service for his work. His efforts for the Association will be greatly missed, but we know we will always be able to count upon him for advice as plans move forward for the westward expansion of the trail.

Everton, we thank you for your many contributions and your years of service to the Hudson Valley Rail Trail. We could not have done it without you.

More Pixs From Past WinterFest



A Very Special Thanks To:



Keith Garbounoff for mowing area to the right of the pavilion

Tim Baker and Son for mowing the area in front of the pavilion

Rail Trail Events In 2012

WinterFest-January 14, 11AM-2PM.

Chili cook-off by local restaurants, roasted chestnuts & toasted marshmallows. Hay rides on the trail, kids activities. 101 New Paltz Road.

Learn to Run Program starts April 21st at 9AM at the Depot.

A 10 week program that will make a runner of you, whether old or young, able to run 20 minutes nonstop. Meet at Rail Trail Depot at 101 New Paltz Road.

Annual Membership Meeting and Breakfast on Black Creek June 2 at 9:00 AM.

This is National Trail Day. Free breakfast with music. Learn about future plans for the Rail Trail. Members vote for directors to the board of the HVRTA. On Rail Trail at Black Creek.

Harvest MoonWalk September 28th, 7:00-9:00PM:

Begins at Depot at 101 New Paltz Road. Here is your chance to walk the Rail Trail at night and enjoy the full moon. \$5 admission includes bonfire, storyteller & refreshments.

Hudson Valley Rail Trail Gala - An Evening Under the Stars! October 6, starts at 6PM.

The event will take place on the trail at 75 Haviland Road. Cocktail reception, dinner and dancing. Black tie optional event, rain or star-shine under festively decorated tents.

HudsonFest 2011, October 7, 10AM to 6PM.

A festival on the Rail Trail to celebrate what Valley has to offer with a focus on the arts, artisans, crafts people, farmers, wineries, local restaurants, food vendors, distilleries, breweries, agri-business, non-profits and community service organizations. Entrance at 75 Haviland Rd.

MoonWalk Continued A Trail Tradition . . .

The Harvest MoonWalk in 2011 continued a tradition that dates back quite a few years for the Hudson Valley Rail Trail. As usual it was billed as “the only time, you can be on the Rail Trail at night.” But that exception is being stretched for other possible uses as seen in article below.

This year’s MoonWalk was the earliest date it has been held (September 9th), as a result the start time had to be pushed back to 7:30 PM to have it be sufficiently dark to see the moon and lend a spooky feel to the event. In part it was because of the way the moon calendar played itself out in being able to offer a full moon for the evening. Holding it at the time of the harvest moon would have put it almost at the same time as other Rail Trail-related events (*see facing page*).

As always there was much for MoonWalk goers to enjoy. Storyteller Jonathan Heiles was a big hit with children and adults alike as he spun tales by a bonfire on a night

more suited for short sleeves than scarves.

We thank the many volunteers including: Lenny Auchmoody, contributed 36 dozen donuts; Ricky Auchmoody, for cornstalks; Sean Riley/Dunkin Donuts-Highland, for donuts and coffee; Debbie & Derrick Doubrova/Minard Farms, 16 gallons of apple cider; Matt Connolly, Hannaford of Highland, \$25 Gift card; Matt Smith, hay bales for seating; and Highland Interact Club led by Patricia Lamarck. ♦



Photo by Robert Goldwitz (www.robertgoldwitz.com)

. . . While Ghost Tour Broke New Ground

Mid-October saw a new use for the Rail Trail as a setting for a theatrical performance: a Ghost Tour of Highland using fictional and real characters from the town’s history. Many of the tales were on the macabre side: an ice worker falling into the frigid Hudson; victims of an Indian massacre; viewpoint of a slave; the voice of one of the first firemen, etc.

The idea and performance was the work of the Highland High School Drama Club. Students,

working with drama teacher Krista Petrossoff, did their own research into the historical figures and prepared their own monologues. The Highland Library co-sponsored the performance.

Originally the performers were to be out along the trail with the audience coming to them. But rain forced them under the Rotary Pavilion roof. When it came for the second performance, the actors became so energized they went out in the rain. ♦



2011 Rail Trail Gala Had A Different Venue

This year's *Evening Under The Stars Gala* was moved from the Rail Trail near Walkway to The Would Restaurant in order to economize on costs. Kudos to The Would staff and event organizers who accomplished this enormous feat, almost overnight, managing to make the evening's new setting both festive and memorable. A good time was had by all. ♦



HudsonFest: An Outstanding Day On The Trail

A bright October day drew thousands of people and some 70 vendors of food, arts & crafts, et al. The vendors all report they did well and the crowds were certainly pleased by the event. ♦



All photos on this page by Nancy Norberg

New Signs Have Been Added to Rail Trail

As more people use the Rail Trail because of the link to Walkway Over The Hudson, it stands to reason that this can benefit the Hamlet of Highland. What better way than display new signs that let users know of places just off the trail where they can go for food, shopping and sights.

There is also a flip side to greater usage, particularly the two-wheeled kind. Bikes pose a danger to pedestrians and family groups who are also on the trail. Bike traffic has grown sharply because of the Walkway connection, so much so that we have witnessed near brushes and at least one collision with a pedestrian. The sign immediately below, asks cyclists to yield to pedestrians and spells out the safe way they can comply. ♦



Banner At The Commercial Ave. Trailhead Is For The Historic Walk Thru The Highland Hamlet



The Cyclists Sign Is There In Hopes That They Will Yield To Pedestrians & What That Means



This Sign Is At The Commercial Ave. Trailhead; It Points To The Hamlet and Its Amenities



Not Really A Sign at This Point But Rather New Kiosk at Tony Williams Park Waiting For Some



This Sign Lists A Number of Businesses In the Hamlet. It Faces Our Parking Lot Near Walkway

Running Program Graduates 100th Runner

The Learn-To-Run Program just passed an important mile marker: Its 100th graduate since the classes first started five years ago.

The 100th is Theresa Logan of the Fall 2011 Class, which graduated 10 runners.

This brings the total number of graduates since the first class in Fall 2006 to 105. When we started the classes back in that year we never would have imagined that so many people would try the program and become runners.

If anything, the classes are getting bigger each year. This Fall one started with 20 participants. The Spring 2011 began with 40 of which 20 managed to complete the 10 week course.

Several factors account for the increasing numbers. For one thing, past graduates, seeing the benefits the program has given them, get friends and relatives to participate in the next classes. Also, some people

read the notices of the classes each year and put them off a season or two until they then finally get their nerve up and take the plunge.

The success of the program is very rewarding for those who teach or help the pro-

gram. We hear from participants how much their achievement has changed their lives. Most individuals who join a class never thought they could ever run more than a minute or two, let alone be able to run non-stop for 20 minutes after 10 weeks of lessons. The classes have had another positive result:

lasting friendships that develop from reaching a goal together.

Not convinced yet? Come out for the next class that starts Saturday, April 21, 2012. Lessons begin at 9AM at the Rotary Pavilion at 101 New Paltz Road. Only cost is a \$15 membership in the Rail Trail organization. You can join at the first lesson. ♦



Theresa Logan Receiving Flowers as 100th Graduate



Fall 2011 Graduation Class

Membership Form

The Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating, maintaining, promoting, and improving the Hudson Valley Rail Trail for the benefit of the public. Please help by becoming a member and volunteering your talents. (*You can join at www.hudsonvalleyrailtrail.net*)

\$15 Individual \$20 Family \$50-\$99 Patron \$100-499 Supporting \$500 Benefactor

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

I'd like to volunteer for:

Trail Maintenance
 Special Events
 Ecology Projects
 Other (Specify) _____

Newsletter
 Fund Raising
 Refreshments

Please send form and check payable: Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association, Inc.
12 Church Street, Highland, New York 12528

Signals



...from the Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association

Don't miss!
WinterFest 2012
on the
Hudson Valley Rail Trail



Hudson Valley Rail Trail Depot

101 New Paltz Road

January 14, 2012 from 11am to 2pm

www.hudsonvalleyrailtrail.net

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Highland, New York 12528

12 Church Street

Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association, Inc.

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