



Signals

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

Volume 9 Number 2

FALL 2012

A Busy Fall Of Rail Trail Events Coming Up

As the leaves begin to start turning into Fall's foliage colors, the Hudson Valley Rail Trail will be offering the public a quartet of events over a 10-day period. This should keep you busy starting with the Harvest MoonWalk on September 28. Festivities will continue the following October 6-8 weekend with the *Evening under the Stars* Gala, the crowd-pleasing HudsonFest and a community 4 mile walk/jog fun event.

Harvest MoonWalk

This Fall kick-off celebration on September 28 runs from 7PM to 9PM. This is the only time that the Rail Trail is open after dark. It starts at the Hudson Valley Rail Trail Depot at 101 New Paltz Road and goes to Tony Williams Park at Riverside Road. The walk is a 3-mile round-trip if you go all the way.

INSIDE: Vandalism, p. 5
 "We lose a piece of the beauty of the trail after an incident. Let's join together to protect our park."

Bring flashlights, but leave dogs, pets, bikes, scooters, roller blades and skate boards at home. The charge for the event is \$5.00 per person; children 6 and under are free. The evening also includes a bonfire and a storyteller. Donuts, popcorn and cider will be served. The event is rain or moonshine.

Evening Under Stars Gala

What an array of offerings to celebrate the Columbus Day Weekend! It starts Saturday with the Gala, the third year it is being offered. The *Evening Under The Stars* Gala will take more advantage of the Rail Trail

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Storyteller at Last Year's Harvest MoonWalk

President's Message

This summer is shaping up to be a very busy one for the Hudson Valley Rail Trail with improvements such as:

- *The caboose at 75 Haviland Road got a new coat of paint and looks just grand.*
- *The entrance at 75 Haviland Road has a face lift and looks outstanding with its river rocks and newly planted grasses. We hope to make similar improvements to the west end of the parking lot in coming months.*
- *Five locations have been identified to receive Corinthian granite benches to match the six installed last year. This project should be completed by early Fall.*

We have several events coming up that help support such efforts and are fun:

- ☐ *The MoonWalk evening for a stroll on the rail trail on September 28 from 7 to 9 pm. Meet us at the Rail Trail Depot at 101 New Paltz Road. Bring your flashlight.*
- ☐ *The Evening Under the Stars! Gala is another opportunity to enjoy the Rail Trail. It begins with a reception on the trail followed with food, dancing and a silent auction. That's October 6 from 6 to 10 pm.*
- ☐ *This is followed by the Highland HudsonFest on Sunday October 7 from 10 am to 6 pm. A day long event to showcase the region while enjoying our beautiful trail.*
- ☐ *A Community Walk/Jog fun event the next day at 10 am.*

Sadly, we announce the resignation of two key members from our HVRTA Board, Francine Miller and Suzanne Wirth. Both contributed mightily to the success of the Rail Trail during their years of service and will be missed.

See you on the trail—

Claire

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

We're on Facebook!

If you are on Facebook go to the bar that says Search on top of the page and put in Hudson Valley Rail Trail and it will bring you to our page. If you are not friends with the Rail Trail, request friends and when it comes in Lauriann Marion will confirm.

Our Facebook is already a big hit. We have 1,600 friends and growing each day. It has lots of traffic discussing using the trail for walking and biking. Also how safe people feel when on the trail.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Lauriann via email at mrsbug124@aol.com.



Signals

is published on an occasional basis by:

Hudson Valley Rail Trail Assoc.
12 Church Street
Highland, NY 12528

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Donation Shed Helps Rail Trail & Rotary



There's a new feature on the Hudson Valley Rail Trail that is a win-win-win situation all around. In conjunction with the Rotary Club of Highland, we have placed a clothing donation shed in our Haviland Road Parking Lot near Walkway On The Hudson.

The shed comes from St. Pauly Textiles, a family-owned business that collects clothing and other items. Unlike with dumpster-looking donation containers, clothing you place in one of the sheds like ours is not shredded to produce reprocessed cloth. Instead, it is distributed in whole condition to relief agencies locally and abroad at a nominal cost. The funds are then shared with churches and organizations such as ours that host the sheds.

- ▶ The Highland Rotary is using its share of the monies to buy food and school supplies to support Community Action and local families in need. This bolsters the regular food deliveries the Rotary makes to that organization.
- ▶ The Rail Trail's split of the proceeds goes to back improvements such as those listed in the President's message on page 2.
- ▶ Beyond helping funding benefits above, you also get the satisfaction that the clothing you contribute in good condition will get to people in need at home and abroad.

The shed's proximity to Walkway means a steady flow of donations. People get the pleasure of combining an outing with doing some good. Volunteers who take care of the shed are impressed with the generosity of donors and the quality of the clothing dropped off. ♦

A Very Special Thanks To:

Dorine Merrill for weeding, mulching at Commercial Avenue trailhead

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Boden for weeding & planting flowers at the Pavilion

Ray Costantino for weeding at kiosk at the trailhead with Route 9W

Tim Baker of Baker and Sons for removal of graffiti on the trail

Alan Van De Bogart for preparing anti-vandalism posters

Rail Trail Events In 2012

Learn to Run Program Starts September 8th at 9:00AM: Join this 10-week program that will make a runner of you in 10 weeks. Lessons are taught on the Rail Trail and start from the Rotary Pavilion at 101 New Paltz Road.

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. On the trail at 75 Haviland Road. Expanded cocktail reception with substantial *hors d'oeuvres* buffet and dancing under the night sky and festively decorated tents. Black tie optional event, rain or star-shine.

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.

Hudson Valley Caboose to Caboose 4-Mile Community Fun Walk/Jog, October 8th, 10AM. Begins and ends at Caboose at 75 Haviland Road near Walkway.

Winterfest-January 12, 2013, 11AM-2PM. Chili cook-off by various restaurants, ice carving demonstration, roasted chestnuts and toasted marshmallows. Hay rides on the trail, kids activities. 101 New Paltz Road.

QUARTET OF FALL EVENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

area than before. While the Gala will again have a large tent for dining and dancing, the event will also be spread out along the Rail Trail. Here is how the elegant festivities will dramatically unfold throughout the evening:



It will start with a walk down the red carpet with a photo op and then move on to the now famous cocktail hour under the lights and stars along the Rail Trail that allows you to experience it in an



extraordinary way. Wines will be provided by J. Lohr and light hors d'oeuvres served by Highland's class-act restaurant, The Would. After the cocktail hour you will be welcomed under the main tent for further cocktails and elaborate, heavier-duty hors d'oeuvres. All the while listening and dancing to music by the John Bates Band.

During the entire evening the Rail Trail will have a silent auction with amazing prizes donated from around the valley, New York City and beyond. The items include airline tickets from JetBlue and Delta Air as well as weekend stays at leading hotels in the Big Apple. The cost is \$80 per person, i.e. less than one would expect to pay for such an extravaganza fund raising event.



HudsonFest Day

On Sunday October 7, HudsonFest returns for its third amazing year and it promises to be bigger and better. Floral and other decorations will have a colorful autumn theme.

We are expecting 50 vendors and exhibitors to line the Rail Trail from Walkway westward toward 9W. This will be a free, fun time to enjoy the Rail Trail on an autumn day.

It will include a wide selection of craft vendors from the Hudson Valley area. Food will be available for purchase from local restaurants that include a range of types of eats and also specialty foods and preparations to take home.

There will also be wine for tasting and purchase. Local and regional community organizations will have booths that will let you know of the pleasures of living and being here has to offer.



Community Run/Walk

Lest we forget that the Rail Trail is a place to enjoy all on its own, we are having a low-key Community Walk/Jog Fun event on Monday October 8. Come and move on foot between the 1926 caboose near Walkway Over the Hudson to the 1915 caboose at the Pavilion on New Paltz Road.

The roundtrip is 4-miles. It takes you through a diverse part of the trail as varied as a deep rockcut carved out for the old rail line; old industrial buildings once served by the railroad, and plenty of natural setting to enjoy as you walk or jog along. ♦

If You See Something, Say Something

by Alan Van De Bogart

I am a regular user of the Hudson Valley Rail Trail in all weather and seasons, My enjoyment comes from walking my dog, running with friends, and the many events I attend that are put on by the Rail Trail Association. Unfortunately, graffiti and other acts of property destruction are marring the beauty for everyone who goes there. The posters authorized by the Rail Trail Association that accompany this article are an appeal for you to help stop the vandalism.

Damage Done

A few among us can be destructive. They add graffiti to signs and the natural walls that line the deep rock cuts through which the railroad once ran. Graffiti is seen on the Rail Trail's pavement. In past years vital facilities such as the exercise stations have been wrecked in places; windows have been broken on the caboose at the Rotary Pavilion. Vandalism by these few is a blight on our trail. The damage is not only an eyesore but costly to repair.

We lose a piece of the beauty of the trail after each incident. Let's join together to protect our park.

Report misuse to the police or to Rail Trail's Board of Directors who give us so much in the way of their time and resources to develop and maintain our park. They work to present activities for our pleasure. We can give back by watching over our trail to report misuse and vandalism.

The \$1,000 or \$500 rewards offered are a lot of money. It reflects the seriousness of the situation and a growing concern to protect this vital public asset. The money is coming from the Rail Trail Association and donors. It will be paid for information leading to arrest and conviction.

Please Join Us

If you see something or hear information concerning the culprits say something to the police or to Rail Trail officials. Such information will help lead to an end of the vandalism. Will you join in to preserve and protect our trail?

The rail trail is a valuable resource for everyone to use and enjoy. It is a resource that we need to preserve and protect. ♦

REWARD

The Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association is offering

\$1,000.00

(until Sept 30th THEN IT DROPS to \$500.00
ACT NOW)

for the arrest of the individual(s)
responsible for the Rail Trail vandalism.

THE DETAILS

The Rail Trail has been vandalized by painted graffiti on the pavement east of Mile Hill Rd.

You may join others who care about your trail by providing information to police that stops these vandals. You can make money by just helping. Ask about staying anonymous.

Contact Town of Lloyd Police at 845-691-6102

If you know something, say something! Make this
REWARD yours.

Send an informational email to info@hudsonvalleyrailtrail.com

WE'RE DOING OUR PART
FOR THE RAIL TRAIL.

CAN WE COUNT ON
YOU?

We are committed to providing you a great family trail. We donate our time, energy, and resources on your behalf. Help protect your trail, *report vandals or any misuse of your trail to the Town of Lloyd Police, 845-691-6102.*

In some cases, we pay rewards to those who help.

Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association
info@hudsonvalleyrailtrail.net

Class Graduation and Renewal of Vows

by Cindy Mohr

June 23, 2012 was a wonderful occasion to have two celebrations on the Rail Trail at the Rail Trail Depot on New Paltz Road. First was graduating another class in the Learn-To-Run Program. Next was celebrating the 50th Wedding Anniversary of running class instructor Rafael Díaz and his wife Donna Deeprise who is an integral part of the program.

Spring 2012 Grads

The graduating class is the 12th since the program started in Fall 2006. This Spring 2012 class included two couples Paul and Toni Banner and Jeff and Jacy Smith as well as Madeline Swirsky. This brings the total number of graduates to 110.

The Rail Trail Association offers these classes every Fall and Spring. These each run for 10 weeks. Participants progress via small weekly increments of sets of running and walking to the point they can run 20 minutes without walking breaks. The next class begins September 8.



Justice Paul Banner Leads Renewal of Vows

The Learn To Run Program has many dividends. First, participants get the health benefits and feeling of confidence that comes with running. The Rail Trail gains as the program is a major source of new memberships; the only cost is to join the Rail Trail Association. In addition, a handful of graduates, impressed with what the Rail Trail

offers, have joined the Board of Directors. I am one of those graduates who have had their lives enhanced by the program and also volunteered to be on the Board as a way of paying back what the Rail Trail has given me.

Couple's 50th Anniversary

The happy couple were totally surprised by the arrangements made to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The Pavilion was decorated in wedding regalia, a past graduate played wedding music, a cake was baked and there was a delightful development: One

of the Spring 2012 class is The Hon. Paul L. Banner, a Poughkeepsie Town Justice. Judge Paul donned his robe over his running clothing and shoes and presided over a full nuptial renewal of vows for the couple. Their son Jason Díaz was the ring bearer.

Graduates from the past classes joined the new crop of graduates in cheering on the ceremony and the couple who ran on their 50th.

Many thanks to all involved in setting up and helping out with this "surprise" celebration. Our many thanks go out to: Judge Paul, Alan and Susan Van De Bogart, Jan Stivers,

Barbara Butler, Nancy Heim, Casey Quinlan, Cheri Horn. Jay Sisodia and staff from Bagels and Bites on 9W catered the great breakfast that usually marks graduation and was made more elaborate for the wedding anniversary. ♦



From Left: Jeff Smith, Jacy Smith, Paul Banner, Rafael Diaz, Donna Deeprise, Toni Banner, Madeline Swirsky



Rail Trail Is Adding More Granite Benches

If you have been on the Rail Trail in the last year or so, you will have noticed that we have installed a number of stone benches, six in all. These have all been on the portion of the trail that is West of the Pavilion with one exception. Within the next few months we will add benches in the east section of the trail toward Walkway.

These benches have replaced old wooden ones that, while picturesque, could not stand up to the weather and rotted away. The photo below shows



the remains of one that was made of wood planks mounted on trimmed logs.

These new benches that were installed over a year ago are all at places with some historical or scenic significance. One is at the site where

the earlier railbed ran (see *Signals Spring 2012 page 7*). Another is in the shadow of a remaining signal tower. Others offer views of Black Creek from various perspectives. One of the benches is east of the Pavilion near a large tree where the railroad had a siding.

The five additional benches to be placed on the Rail Trail this Fall are made of Corinthian granite as are the existing ones. They will be surrounded by mulch to keep weeds down. Like other improvements on the Rail Trail they are being paid for out of Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association funds gained from fund raising events such as the MoonWalk, annual membership dues and donations. ♦



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!

Harvest MoonWalk 2012 on the Hudson Valley Rail Trail

Where: Rotary Pavilion
101 New Paltz Road, Highland
Friday, Sept. 28, 2012, 7PM to 9PM

www.hudsonvalleyrailtrail.net

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Highland, New York 12528

Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association, Inc.
12 Church Street

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