



The Upland Journal

A PUBLICATION OF THE CAZENOVIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

FALL 2009



CPF Leads Restoration of Historic "South Trail"

More than a year of careful planning by the Cazenovia Preservation Foundation (CPF) and its partners has resulted in the restoration of a damaged section of Cazenovia's South Trail. Located between Cazenovia and New Woodstock on the former rail bed of the historic Lehigh Valley Railroad, South Trail is open to the public for non-motorized use and to members of the Snow Valley Riders snowmobile club during the winter months.

A portion of the trail collapsed in 2007 when the adjacent Chittenango Creek eroded an embankment just south of an old railroad bridge between Ballina and Thompson Roads. A combination of beaver activity along the creek in previous years and unusually heavy rains had increased the flow and ultimately led to the erosion.

CPF owns the land on the collapsed section of the trail, and CPF maintains the entire length of the trail

from Ballina Road to New Woodstock. In addition to the trail itself, the creek is well known as an excellent trout stream. CPF therefore needed to find a solution to keep this important community resource safe and available to all.

In October 2008, Judy Gianforte, CPF's Environmental Project Manager, devised an initial solution design and began a search for funding. By December 2008, the first proposal for design and funding was submitted by the Madison County Planning Department. Goals of the project were to stabilize the section of eroding stream bank impacting the trail, and to minimize future impacts to the site and the water quality of the creek. If the erosion continued, the integrity of the bridge, trail, and stream would have been compromised. As it was, erosion already had contributed tons of sediment to the stream, threatening

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Volunteers filled, hauled, and placed more 900 sand bags in the creek, creating a temporary dam diversion to allow heavy equipment access to build the retaining wall.

trout spawning habitat and local riffle/pool sequences. Stabilizing the bank would result in positive water quality impacts and long-term stability for the multi-use trail.

The design that was approved called for a 110-foot wide and 12-foot high stacked stone wall to support the trail embankment and ensure the stream retained its proper course. Required permits were obtained from the US Army Corps of Engineers, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Town of Cazenovia.

Installing the wall required that the stream itself be diverted so that a five-foot-deep excavation could be made for the base of the stacked stone wall. A diversion dam was built through the work of 42 volunteers who filled, hauled, and placed 950 sandbags. Volunteers included CPF members and friends as well as members of **Project Café**, **Cazenovia College's** environmental

studies program, and **Boy Scout Troop 18**.

All of the volunteers, materials, and equipment had to get to and from the site via Thompson Road. CPF appreciates the patience and generosity of its neighbors, the property owners along the trail, particularly **Elizabeth and Gerry Barney**. The Barneys provided access and work space for the diversion dam.

CPF is grateful to all of the project partners who provided in-kind consulting and additional volunteers, including **Trout Unlimited** (at both the state and local levels), the **Madison County Soil and Water Conservation Department**, **Snow Valley Riders**, and **Project Watershed**.

Because of the importance of the trail and creek to the Cazenovia community, the **Central New York Community Foundation** provided a very generous contribution of \$27,500 to the project from its Spanfelder and Environmental funds. The Foundation's support was a major factor in our success.

Another \$6,000 was provided by the **Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District**. The **Madison County Planning Department's** Special Projects Fund awarded \$15,000 for the job. Unfortunately that money was not paid to CPF as it was from New York State's Environmental Projects Fund, which has been made unavailable by the state.

Total cost of the project, not including the value of in-kind services, was about \$58,000. Minus the \$33,500 in outside funding, CPF's actual out-of-pocket cost to complete this project was \$24,500, including the loss of the anticipated \$15,000 from the Special Projects Fund.

—by Jim Jurista



An attractive, natural wall marks the successful restoration of South Trail. The retaining wall is fifteen feet high, five feet of which are below water level. The South Trail has been restored for hikers and walkers, and even the trout are happy with their preserved habitat.

Many hands, hours, dollars contribute to stream repair

The recently completed stream bank restoration project along CPF's South Trail is a fine example of community collaboration. The project's success is due to the financial, in-kind and volunteer commitment of many individuals and groups as indicated below. CPF is grateful for the help and support of all.

- Sandbag effort volunteers: 100 hrs.
- Other volunteer hours provided by project partners: 20
- CPF Board planning, management, and inspection: 50 hrs
- CPF staff: 165 hrs

Other contributions:

- Snow Valley Riders: Equipment and gravel for construction of access road upgrade
- Project Watershed: Stream analysis in August and October
- Trout Unlimited: Negotiation of fishing rights
- SWCD: Project surveying, design, and inspection
- Madison County Planning: Initial project planning and design and proposal preparation
- Carter Construction: Donation of work for in-stream structure and access road drainage
- Don Ferlow: Design consulting
- Tom Clarke: Project bidding and planning

Funding received:

- Central New York Community Foundation: \$27,500
- Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District: \$6,000
- Snow Valley Riders: \$1,000

President's Column

The mission of the Cazenovia Preservation Foundation is to protect historic, agricultural, and natural resources in and around Cazenovia for the benefit of the community. Our work during the past few months reflects that mission and our commitment to serving the Cazenovia area.

This newsletter includes stories about

- a major stream bank restoration project along one of our many trails,
- the successful conclusion of Madison County's first Farmland Protection Grant that resulted in a conservation easement CPF holds on 216 acres of important agricultural land,
- and an expanded summer educational Walks 'n' Talks series for the public.

In addition, CPF has actively pursued grant opportunities, taken steps to strengthen our financial base, repaired several trails, increased outreach efforts to the community, and improved communication with our neighbors and collaborators (see CACDA report in this issue).

Our work could not be effectively completed without the active involvement of CPF's board members, each of whom contributes unique talents and skills to the organization. We are grateful for the excellent work and unlimited energy of our Environmental Projects Manager, Judy Gianforte. We were fortunate to have the services of a summer intern, Janet Elliott; a volunteer assistant to Judy Gianforte, Richie Clark; and many volunteers who stretch CPF's limited income so that it covers expensive stewardship costs.

The oversight of more than 364 acres of owned property, including an extensive trail system, and an additional 1,070 acres of land on which we hold conservation easements is time consuming and increasingly expensive but essential to the preservation of the countryside we all value. Additionally, CPF is an advocate for the preservation of historic places. While our authority is limited, our members are actively involved in community discussions and planning for the protection of our architectural treasures.

It's been a busy and productive year. With the continued support and involvement of the community we serve, CPF will be able to actively continue its efforts. Thanks to all who participate with us in any way. You make a difference.

To learn more about CPF, please visit our website: www.cazpreservation.org and our recently created Facebook page.

— Barbara Clarke



CPF trails open to the public all year; please brush up on your 'trail etiquette'

Trails are for the enjoyment of users during all seasons of the year, but please remember that use of any trail is a privilege. Please sign in at trailheads when requested. This enables proper maintenance and indicates the extent of trail use, which is important to the property owner. Also, please report any damage or problems encountered. And here are some Trail Etiquette reminders.

Visitors

- Stay on Trail; respect private property
- Obey all posted signs
- Leave No Trace; do not litter
- Share the Trail; respect others
- Do not disturb wildlife or farm fields
- Dogs must be leashed
- Clean up after your animal
- No firearms; no hunting
- No motorized vehicles allowed when posted
- Yield to horseback riders when horses permitted
- Minimize usage of wet sections along trails
- Winter season users stay to one side of ski tracks
- No overnight camping

Bikers

- Stay on marked trail
- Yield to others
- Leave no trace
- Control your bike
- Do not disturb wildlife

Horseback Riders

- Practice minimum impact techniques
- Clean up after your horse

During Hunt Club Events

- Trails are reserved exclusively for Hunt Club during Hunt time
- No dogs permitted other than the Hunt hounds
- For your safety, please stay off trails until Hunt

Save the Date!

CPF's popular and lucrative fundraiser *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* will cook up a second course March 20, 2010. Board member Wendy Taylor and her committee are beginning to scout homes for the evening event.



CPF hosted Walkways and Runways, a popular fundraiser to recognize May as Historic Preservation Month. Participants began their day touring six historic area homes, raising \$14,000 for CPF. Vice President Pringle Symonds grabbed the closest available seat at Party with the Planes, the day's last event at the hangar of board member Brian Coughlin.



Critz Farm was buzzing one day in October (See story page 6) with dignitaries, politicians, a visiting school group and community leaders, but none of that bothered this little guy. He did what comes naturally in October; choosing a pumpkin!

Share your ideas for Walks 'n' Talks 2010

Walks 'n' Talks 2009, the second of CPF's summer educational series, began on a cold wet night in April at Stone Quarry Hill Art Park looking and listening for frogs and toads. This year the walk topics included perennial favorites such as bird identification on Fairchild Hill and spring wildflowers in Nelson Swamp as well as new family-oriented activities such as salamander hunting in Sherman's Gulch and a full moon hike in the Burlingame woods. Participants in Pompey Hollow learned which plants would be good additions to a garden to attract butterflies. In New Woodstock, a farm tour clarified how dairy farmers keep track of the milk production in their large herds. Small groups of hikers took to the CPF-protected trails from Sherman's Gulch to Chittenango Falls State Park. The final event of the season was a talk in the Cazenovia Library on the identification, extent and control of invasive plant species. Over 100 participants joined CPF volunteer walk leaders during the season. A special thanks to CPF summer employee Janet Elliott for her hard work to publicize and manage the series.

Planning for 2010's summer walks has begun, so if you have ideas for topics or a place you've been dying to explore, or an expertise you'd be willing to share, please let us know.—Judy Gianforte



Most successes are collaborative efforts, and the Critz Farm successful completion of its Purchase of Development Rights is no different. (See story facing page.) The “preservation partners” shown here are, from left, Juanita Critz; Barbara Henderson, director of the Cazenovia Area Community Development Assn.; Matthew Critz; Judy Gianforte, CPF’s Environmental Projects Manager; Barbara Clarke, CPF President; and David Haight of American Farmland Trust.

Notes from CACDA:

Cazenovia Area Community Development Association Inc. (CACDA) is an independent non-for-profit community organization that represents a broad cross section of stakeholders in the greater Cazenovia area. We provide full time assistance for local organizations, governments, and residents by (1) helping them to accomplish goals and objectives, (2) building cooperative efforts, (3) locating funding sources, and (4) developing programs that educate the public on important local issues. CACDA enhances economic vitality and preserves the rural, historic character of our region through education, consensus-building and project implementation.

There are several areas where the interests of CACDA and CPF converge, such as historic preservation, the environment, and agriculture and farmland conservation. In the past four years, CACDA has collaborated with CPF on several projects, including assisting the Town of Cazenovia in receiving grants for \$2.6 million to preserve more than 600 acres of farmland and facilitating

technical assistance grants for feasibility studies at Carpenter’s Barn and the Gothic Cottage. Staff from the two organizations converse regularly, and CACDA also serves as an advisor to CPF’s Land Use Committee. When we all work together effectively, the positive synergy allows us to accomplish more with existing financial, human and physical resources. CACDA sincerely appreciates CPF’s continuing support, and we look forward to even more shared priorities and activities in the future that will benefit the entire community.—Barbara Henderson

Save the date!

May 12, 2010

CPF Annual Meeting

Critz PDR a win-win



Most successes are collaborative efforts, and the Critz Farm's completion of its Purchase of Development Rights is no different. Many hands and agencies were involved to ensure the land on Route 13 South is protected for everlasting agricultural use. Matthew and Juanita Critz, far left and middle photo, hosted State Sen. Dave Valesky and Assemblyman Bill Magee of Nelson among the celebrants. Even school children on a perennial field trip arrived to see how apple cider's made.

"The successful conclusion of the Critz Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) project, as part of the NYS Farmland Protection Program, is an important event," said CPF President Barbara Clarke. "This first PDR grant in Madison County will assure that the land remains privately owned, in production, on the tax rolls, and permanently protected for agricultural use through the conservation

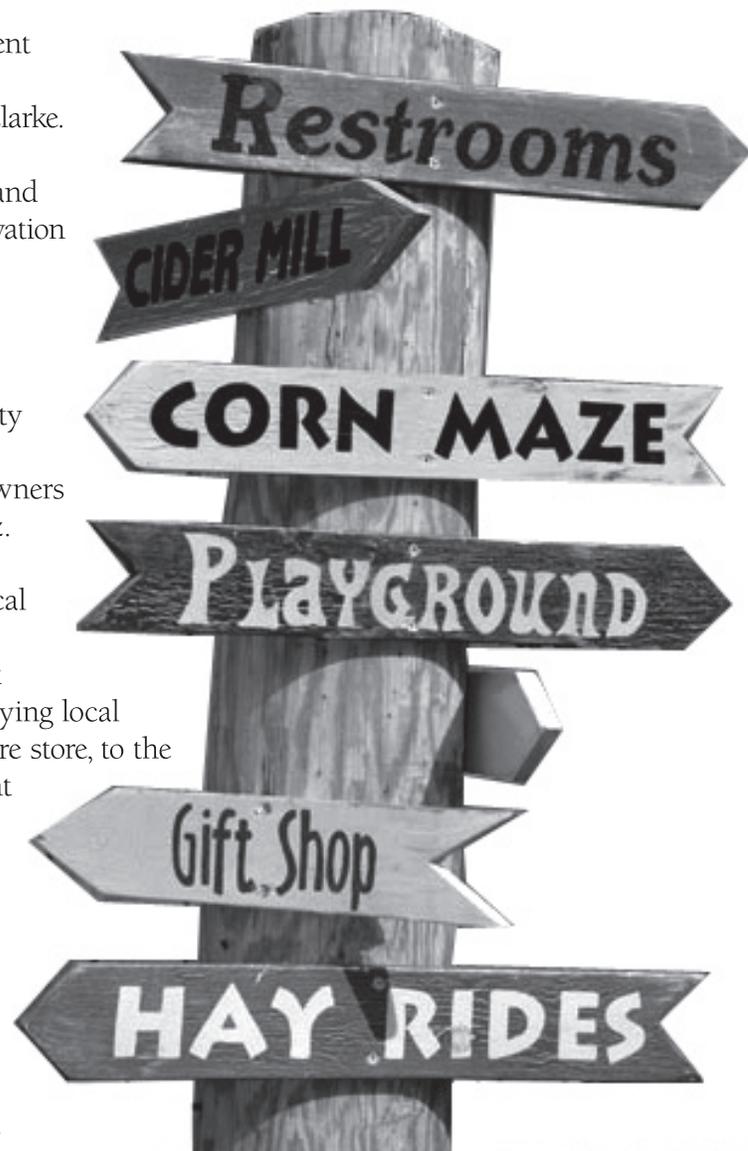


easement that CPF holds. Success of this project was a collaboration among the Town of Cazenovia, the Cazenovia Area Community Development Association (CACDA), CPF, and landowners Matthew and Juanita Critz.

Matthew Critz noted, "This is positive for the local economy because we have immediately invested back into the community by buying local products, from the hardware store, to the lumberyard and equipment dealers. This helps to sustain ancillary jobs in

the area, as well as the fifty or more people employed at the farm."

During the event, the farm's fields and barns were filled with schoolchildren and families who were enjoying pumpkin picking, watching cider making, and interacting



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Please visit: www.cazpreservation.org

Join us, be a part of important new projects, and be included in all CPF events and activities!

We welcome you as a new, or renewing, member of CPF! Your contribution is tax deductible.

Make your contribution payable to Cazenovia Preservation Foundation and mail to:

CPF, P.O. Box 627, Cazenovia, NY 13035-0627.

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|--|--|
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Please enclose your employer's matching gift form, if applicable.
I'd like to get more involved in CPF. I have circled my area of interest.
Trail Work Easement Stewardship Educational Programs
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