

Central County News

POESTENKILL

Dorothy's Trail Open To Visitors

by Amy Modesti

Nestled along the top of Legenbauer Road in the Poestenkill Community Forest is a brand-new trail waiting to be explored amongst local adventurers. Even those with learning and physical disabilities can enjoy the outdoors freely along Dorothy's Trail.

Officially opened Thursday, June 3, the trail brought with it a whole flood of excitement among guests who couldn't wait to explore this beautiful outdoor wonder.

Many of the area's seniors and residents from the Brunswick Center Services day habilitation program were in attendance in the evergreen bough ribbon cutting ceremony, along with distinguished guests.

These guest presenters included Jim Bonesteel (Executive Director of Rensselaer Plateau Alliance), Jeff Briggs (RPA Board of Directors, trail founder and project leader), Congressman Antonio Delgado, Daniel Casale (speaking on behalf of Senator Daphne Jordan), Jake Ashby (107th district Assemblyman), Anthony "Tony" Luisi (DEC Region 4 Director), and Carol Rosbozom (Rensselaer County Commissioner of Aging). Special recognition was given to Briggs, McCrea Burnham (NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation for guidance on the trail route and regulations), Rensselaer Land Trust- RPA Volunteer Trail Crew (for their hard work), Warren W. Fane Inc (for donating gravel and loaning equipment), Callanan Industries Inc. (donation of stone dust), Jim Slavin (donation of materials to complete boardwalk over wetland), Ingrid Effman (donating a sitting bench in memory of her father, John W. Solomon), and Lee King (donation of an upcycled church pew bench and the creation of an accessible picnic table at the end of the trail).

Dorothy's Trail is the first of its kind for the community forest. This is the RPA's first equal access (ADA Compliant) trail, planned and built by Jeff Briggs, PCF Steward, and other key volunteers. The trail, completed in Fall 2020, was made in honor of Briggs' mother, Dorothy, who relied on a wheelchair during the later part of her life. It was difficult for Briggs to be out and about with his mom because there were few places that they could enjoy the outdoors with her being wheelchair bound.

Briggs educated himself on the requirements needed to create an accessible trail that was compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act and began



Members of the RPA, local officials and clients of BCS cut the evergreen bough ribbon opening Dorothy's Trail. Photo by Amy Modesti.

scouting a location at the forest. Dorothy's Trail is close to the parking lot with outdoor exposure to diverse habitats, easy hiking and walking trails.

Once the evergreen bough was cut, seniors and BCS residents ventured onto the stone dust path, crossed the wooden bridge and ventured near the accessible picnic table to take in the wetlands. Along the trail, visitors can read informational signage provided by the Poestenkill Community Library and can even search for tiny garden gnome homes along the forest land.

Justin Morin, a client of BCS, is a nature photographer. When asked about the path, Justin nodded his head that he liked it and thought the scenery is nice.

"It's good exercise! It's a good place to go fishing," added Wayne Bogardus, another BCS client. Bogardus, along with his peers, Morin, Kyle Johnson, Jeremy Cooke and their mentors, James Krakat and Rian Bennett Sr., enjoyed their walk along Dorothy's Trail although they had to leave for lunch. They left hoping to make a return to the trail another day.

Dorothy's Trail is open year-round from dawn till dusk. It is wheelchair accessible or traversed on foot, great for bird watching, and is a perfect location for nature lovers and hikers of all abilities.

NASSAU

Town Hall Reopens

Nassau Town Clerk Sandy Rings has announced that the Town Hall is again fully opened to residents and visitors. The town will follow CDC guidelines which means anyone not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 will still be required to wear a mask. The Town Clerk's hours are 9 am to noon Monday through Friday, or by appointment.

SCHODACK

Sweet Sounds Of Summer



Peaceful Country Band kicked off Schodack's Music in the Park Series at the Schodack Town Park. Every Tuesday from 6-8 pm Schodack will be hosting bands during the month of June and community groups that have food and raffles available. Photo by Denise Wright.

GRAFTON

Summer Festival

After taking the year off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the original Grafton Summer Festival is back and hopes to be bigger and better than ever before.

The Festival is again scheduled to be held in the historic Grafton Town Park on Saturday, July 17. The park is located on NYS Route 2, one mile east of the State Park entrance.

For more than 30 years, the Grafton Summer Festival has been a tradition enjoyed by all the residents of Grafton, the surrounding towns and visitors to the area.

The festival provides the people and friends of Grafton the opportunity to meet their neighbors and the people who serve them in various volunteer capacities. To join in the festivities, call 518-466-8555 for more information and registration forms as a vendor or participant.

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