



Friends of Webster Trails

FWT Newsletter - Fall 2018



Hidden Gems Hike Vosburg Hollow –June 2nd (see article)

Upcoming Events

November 10th – Hot Cocoa Hike 7:00pm Four Mile Creek Preserve

November 12th – FWT Annual Meeting and Board Meeting (all members welcome) Chiyoda Parks and Rec. 7:00pm

President's Column – Shari Gnolek

FWT is looking for few good groups to partner with! Is your group interested in completing some volunteer hours and contributing to Webster's great trails?

We get a lot of compliments about the trails in Webster, and while they were mostly built in a way to provide drainage and minimize maintenance there is always some work that needs to be done to keep them in top shape. We tackle these tasks through "Trail Work

Parties" usually held on the third Saturday of the month from April to October for a few hours. In the past we've rounded up volunteers for the work days through emails to FWT members and Facebook posts, but we're learning that's not as effective as it used to be.

For the 2019 trail work season we are hoping to recruit six organizations to each "adopt" a work day. We'll provide the leadership, most tools, and cold drinks, and your group would bring 10-12 enthusiastic volunteers. The work would involve trimming back brush, raking, shoveling, carrying materials, etc. - the types of activities typically involved in landscape work (though best suited to ages 16 and up).


Are you part of a civic group, scout group, sports team or organization centered around birding, biking, hiking, running, geocaching, orienteering, preservation, a neighborhood association, or just someone who enjoys Webster's trails and could round up 10 like-minded

FWT Newsletter - Fall 2018

friends to do trail work one day? Are you a member of a group with a service hour requirement (ex: National Honor Society/Key Club/Rotary Interact) that is looking for a worthy cause? If so, contact us on Facebook or through the website (www.webstertrails.org/contact-us)

Thanks for considering it. We look forward to working together!

Treasurer's Report – Bill Polito

	YTD	YTD Prior Yr
Friends of Webster Trails		
For: Sep 2018		
		
Income:		
PayPal	\$1,190	\$928
Checks	\$2,619	\$1,549
Amazon	\$32	\$31
United Way	\$27	\$5
Webster Educators 50/50	\$90	\$0
Masons Spaghetti Dinner	\$0	\$1,532
United Church of Christ	\$886	\$0
Roc Trails	\$2,000	\$0
Webster Library	\$4,664	\$0
Schantz Trust	\$2,500	\$0
Total Income	\$14,008	\$4,045
Expenses:		
Community Arts Day	(\$20)	(\$20)
IRS Filing Fee	(\$40)	(\$40)
Supplies	(\$7,702)	(\$933)
McAllister sign	\$0	(\$180)
PayPal Fees	(\$74)	(\$21)
Wegman's, Chipotle, Guidas	(\$152)	(\$70)
Weekend Printer	(\$650)	\$0
Total Expenses	(\$8,638)	(\$1,264)
Net Income	\$5,370	\$2,781

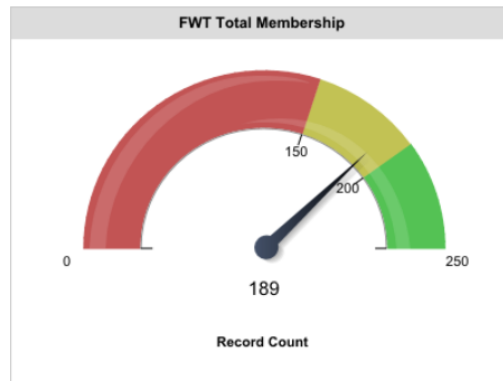
Membership News - Denise Bilsback

The holidays are just around the corner. Think about a gift membership for one of your friends!!

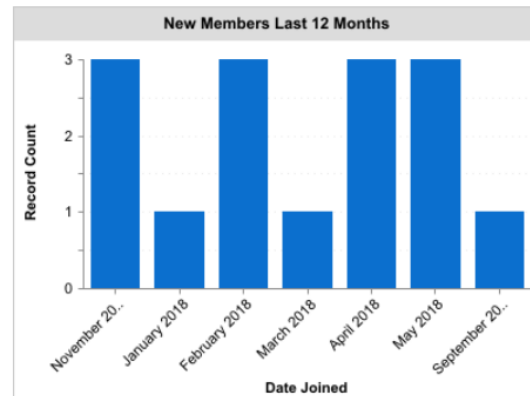
Members by Status

<u>Contact Status</u>	<u>Record Count</u>
<u>Current Member</u>	184
<u>Comp</u>	5
<u>Donor</u>	16
Total	205

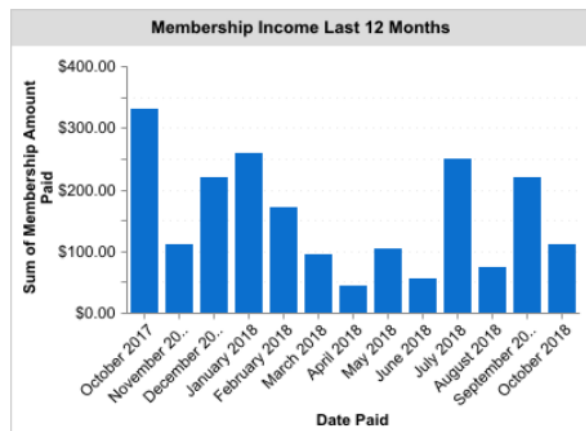
Total Membership



New Members Last 12 Months



FWT Newsletter - Fall 2018



Steward Report

Whiting Road Nature Preserve (WRNP) –Ron Happ

This year we added the new “Pink Trail” in WRNP. This trail is a short loop into the woods on the West side of the Orange Trail. The southern terminus is at the bench on the Orange Trail and the other terminus is farther north on the Orange Trail. In September, Sebastian Kulak and Troop 110 BSA constructed two boardwalks for his Eagle project. Many thanks to Eric Turberg, our scout project

coordinator, for his construction expertise and Matt Frank who brought in the materials using his ATV and trailer. The new signs for the trail will be installed shortly. Thanks are also in order to Matt Frank for mowing the trails, Dave Mirabella for mowing the Brown Trail, and Jim Laudani for his work on the Green and Brown trails.

Steward Report

Four Mile Creek Preserve (FMCP) – Dennis Kuhn

As the steward of Four Mile Creek Preserve I’m pleased to announce that there is a short, but scenic, hike you can take to further enjoy the unique personality of the 72 acre open space parcel.

Recently, Nicholas Hanby, a senior at Webster Thomas High School, completed his Eagle Scout project at FMCP. The trail is located where the boardwalk connecting the blue trail with the red trail meets the Guenther Bridge. The trail follows Salt Creek from the boardwalk near the bridge to a bench and table located at the base of a steep hill near the south boundary of the property.

You can enjoy the scenic hike and its proximity to Salt Creek. You’ll see some impressive sugar maple trees along the way. You might also see a few trout or salmon

wending their way upstream.

When you return to the Guenther Bridge you can continue to the red trail which now has a set of stairs which allow hikers to take a shortcut to the north side of the red trail where it parallels Fourmile Creek.



New Stairs at FMCP (D. Kuhn photo)

The set of stairs was recently installed to make a safe shortcut to the red trail. The stairs were designed by former FWT president Hal Harris who describes himself as someone who “likes to build things”. Hal recruited FWT members Larry Yost, Ron Happ and Paul Pfrommer. They spent much of a recent Saturday hauling materials and constructing the stairs. A hand rail is included for safety for hikers.

2018 Workday Reports – John Boettcher

May 19th - The first work day of 2018 for the Friends of Webster Trails (FWT) had less than desirable weather with 60F and light rain. Nevertheless eight people turned out for the event. After some orientation from Jim Laudini, the steward of the Green Trail at Whiting Road Nature Preserve (WRNP), the group set off to do clearing of vegetation and trail adjustment to promote drainage in the north end of the preserve.

June 16th - We had intended to construct puncheons over the wet spots on the yellow trail in the FMCP. Very low turnout of workers.

July 21st - Put in a new entrance to the Big Woods from Pellet Road. About a dozen members showed up on that day to clear the new trail of debris, cut some trees and

FWT Newsletter - Fall 2018

roots, and do some benching to make it more user friendly. Prior to this day other FWT members had carefully laid out the trail. There were two areas which required removal of some very large trees which had fallen over the trail. This job was taken on by our skilled chain sawyers. The previous entrance from Pellet had a very steep section which was getting a lot of wear. This section has now been closed.

August 18th - The plan was to do some trail maintenance (clearing, resetting culverts, etc.) on the Blue and Yellow Trails at FMCP. Bring loppers and shovel. Another low turnout day.

September 15th - We had a thin turnout of seven workers for the latest FWT work day. Maybe it was the forecasted high temperature that kept down the turnout. Ron Happ, one of the stewards of WRNP, was leader for the crew. A new trail (PINK) had previously been roughed out in the Whiting Road Nature Preserve. To make the trail fit for use it had to be raked of debris and cleared of "toe stubbers". The latter are the short pieces of root and tree protruding just above the trail bed that catch the feet of tired hikers causing falls. Some are easy to remove with a shovel. Others require some considerable work with an axe. Another task of the crew was to trim the edges of the existing GREEN trail.

October 20th - This last work day of the year was cancelled.

Hidden Gems Hikes

The first hike was on June 2nd and was well-attended with 21 people. The party enjoyed the cool, green recesses of Webster's Vosburg Hollow (see cover photo), the Hojack Trail and John Ungar Nature Trail. All were within walking distance of the parking lot at the Hollow and provided the sounds and sights of Shipbuilders Creek. Hike leaders were Norma Platt and John Boettcher.

The second hike to Midnight Trail on August 26 was a hot one. The heat might have been responsible for the low turnout with only 12 people. The group met at the WRNP parking lot and hiked into Webster Park and on to the Midnight Trail area. Leader Sharon Galbraith reports that all had a good time and the flowers were interesting.

A third hike was planned for this year but has been postponed to 2019. Look to the FWT website (www.webstertrails.org) for notice of future Hidden Gem hikes.

Scout Projects - Eric Turberg - Scout Coordinator

This year five boy scouts have completed their Eagle Scout projects to benefit the Friends of Webster Trails.

Nicholas Hamby of troop 262 built the new "Salt Creek Spur" trail at the Four Mile Creek Preserve. The new trail is located just west of the Salt Creek bridge and travels south along the creek. Nicholas cleared the entire trail of brush, built nearly 100 feet of boardwalk and built and installed a bench at the terminus of the trail, overlooking Salt Creek.



Sebastian Kulak of troop 110 built two boardwalks on the new Pink Trail at the Whiting Road Nature Preserve. The new Pink trail is located in the wooded area west of the Orange Trail. Sebastian hauled in the materials for and built a 60 foot and a 30 foot boardwalk over wet areas of the trail.



Alex Groff of troop 110 has constructed a new trail kiosk on the Hojack Trail. The kiosk is located just west of Route 250 in the village where the trail crosses the road. The kiosk will inform people about the Hojack Trail, Friends of Webster Trails and provide some history of the surrounding area.



Matt Morrison of troop 363 constructed the first section of boardwalk leading from the Hickory Bark platform towards the parking lot. The boardwalk provides a dry, smooth path to the platform and is 5 feet wide with curbs to allow safe passage for people with wheelchairs and walkers.



Truman Mortillaro of troop 262 constructed the second section of boardwalk on the Hickory Bark Trail. Truman's section includes a bump out that provides passing area and a spot to stop along the trail to observe the beauty of the Hickory Bark woods.

Thanks to these scouts for all of their hard work improving and building the trails we all enjoy!

Social Media News – Anna Taylor

What a great experience this year getting the opportunity to share the Webster trails with friends, both in person and in the digital world as the FWT Social Media Director. This year we have established a reliable, current presence on Facebook and Instagram. As of this writing, we have 484 followers on Facebook and starting fresh on Instagram, we now have 101 followers. On both platforms we have made an effort to be very responsive to any comments we receive. We have a 90% response rate averaging 1 day in our response time .

These are just numbers really. What has been a pleasure is hearing back from you on our posts. Thank you for "liking" us and thank you for your supportive comments.

Moving forward, as we close out 2018 I encourage you to continue to Follow us and Like us. Please forward our pages to any friends or family members who you know support our mission and who love trails. Also consider joining us for a Trail Work day, and become a member. As always feel free to message me with your ideas and feedback. Also note, if you take a beautiful trail photo this year, while out exploring our trails, be it of the trail, or your family and friends enjoying the trails consider sharing it with us on either Instagram or Facebook. If you want to email it to me too, I can share it on your behalf, (giving you photo credit of course).

FWT Habitat Preservation Committee: 2018 Fall Report

By Norma Platt

The Habitat Preservation Committee works to keep our Open Spaces friendly for native species by removing alien invasive plants and re-introducing native plants. Our group meets weekly for light labor, conversation and learning in the out-of-doors.

My highest priority is to thank all this year's participants. The 'choir' of returning and long-time participants include Lee Berlew, John Boettcher, Carolyn Brown, Eric Brown, Frank Calendra, , Paul Dorscheid, Sharon Galbraith, Dave Lentz, Tom Nash, Nancy Poeth and Tom Poeth. This year's new participants are Paul and Mary Dangler, Karen Mischler and Sheryl Gracewyski. Everyone provided willing and able hands to work on the habitat in Webster.

We continued traditional and long-standing activities.

We pulled Garlic Mustard on Lake Road north of Gosnell Big Woods and we maintained (cleared around trees we had planted) in the rehab area in the Big Woods.



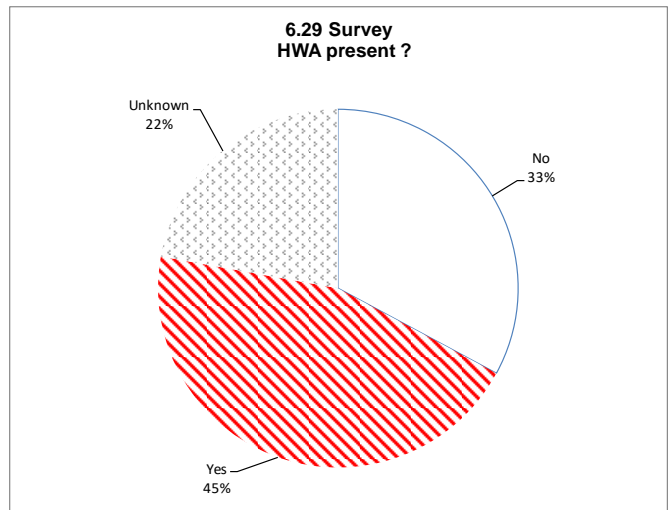
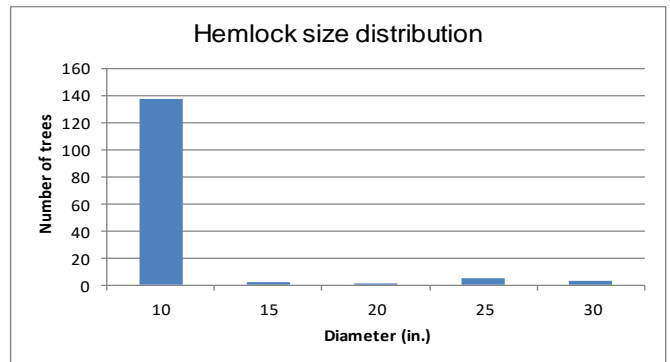
Hemlock groves in western WRNP

As a new activity, we ran a census of the Eastern Hemlocks in two areas on the western side of Whiting Road Nature Preserve. We wanted to know whether the trees had been infested with Hemlock Woolley Adelgid. We also wished to determine the distribution of tree sizes, information that would be useful for future spraying of the Adelgid. It is important to react to this invasive insect as, if unchecked, it would kill off the Hemlocks and deforest a major portion of the wooded

open space.

On the map, stands of hemlock are shaded and outline in white.

Here's what we found: 1. The western part of WRNP contains a significant population of Eastern Hemlocks. 2. The diameters of trees are under 15 inches, with a few large individuals. 3. HWA is present, though current infestation is light.



The habitat workers are currently taking a break waiting for a killing frost to suppress the yellow jackets. Our last foray at John Ungar Nature Trail (to clear invasive plants and to plant spicebush seedlings) resulted in a several members receiving painful stings. Projects that we'll try to do in the remainder of this season are: checking and cleaning the owl and duck nesting boxes, further removal of Autumn Olive at John Ungar and clearing woody plants along the Big Field fence line on Baker Road. Please join us!

FWT Newsletter – Fall 2018

Again, I want to thank my 2018 habitat companions for their company and good works helping to make our Webster open space a better place for native plants and animals! I hope you and other interested folks join us next season!

Hickory Bark Woods – John Boettcher

Exciting things have been happening in a patch of woods immediately adjacent one of the busiest areas of Webster. The Hickory Bark Woods was established in 2014 by Supervisor Nesbitt. This small wood lot at the corner of Hard Road and the eastbound 104 feeder road was set aside through the efforts of Harold Krieger. A rough trail through the park was established and maintained by Parks and Recreation headed by Commissioner Mark Yaeger. The trail entrance is at the SE corner of the woodlot with parking adjacent. In memory of his wife Ann, Mr. Krieger paid to have two bridges built to span the two small creeks on the trail and installed a memorial bench. Trail signs were provided by the Friends of Webster Trails (FWT). Sharon Galbraith of FWT helped Mr. Krieger to purchase and plant some wildflowers along the trail leading to the bench.



Hickory Bark Woods and Parking, Trail Head Location

Since that time there has been much thinking but not a lot of activity on the Hickory Bark Woods. The reasons for this are the poor drainage of most of the property and the abundance of poison ivy. An Eagle Scout project with FWT funding provided a Kiosk at the entrance of the trail few years ago. Early this year, a new trail was laid out that would take in more of the beautiful woodlot and

some drainage provided for the wet spots. Upon reflection, this new trail was abandoned due to the big problem of clearing all the poison ivy. During this time, Jeff Darling, Vice President of FWT, who was leading the effort for the trail, contacted the Webster Public Library with regard to their interest in the woodlot for conducting programs. This makes sense considering their proximity. They were enthusiastic, especially Jason Poole, Children's Librarian. The Friends of the Library would provide funds to purchase materials. With this input a new plan was put in place.

The existing trail would be used to gain access to a platform in the woods that would accommodate a group of people as in a class of some sort. Eric Turberg, Scout Liaison to FWT, designed a roomy platform based on but much larger than one that the Eagle Scouts had installed in the Four Mile Creek Preserve earlier in the year. Eric and a group of volunteers from FWT and elsewhere started construction on the August 4th. The platform was finished September 30th and involved 300 hours of volunteer effort.



Eric and Hal Harris Setting Posts



Eric and sister Rachel Making Bench

In the future a boardwalk will be constructed from the parking lot to the platform. This 450 ft. boardwalk will be built during five, separate Eagle Scout projects under the supervision of Eric Turberg. The completion is scheduled for next year.



New Platform at Hickory Bark

Even More Hidden Gems: Wildflowers in Webster - Norma Platt

This season Friends of Webster Trails sponsored a limited series of hikes in Webster open spaces titled Hidden Gems. But there are even more Hidden Gems to be found in our Webster open spaces: wildflowers. They provide an array of pleasing blooms over the course of the year. And each species has interesting connections to the wildlife that surrounds it.

Here are several species that bloom in the fall.



I know of one location where **White Turtlehead** grows...a wet spot in WRNP.

White Tutlehead

It bears the honor of being the food plant for the lovely butterfly the Baltimore Checkerspot (which you may also find in that location in July).



Baltimore Checkerspot

Different kinds of Goldenrod may be found. In meadows like the Big Field or WRNP in the woods in Gosnell or WRNP or Four Mile Creek.



There's even a goldenrod that's white. You can find it on the John Ungar Nature Trail.



White Goldenrod

If you look at goldenrod stems later in the year (perhaps when you're out snowshoeing), you may find balloon-like



Galls on Goldenrod

structures. These are galls, growth that the plants make

when the larva of a Goldenrod Fly is growing in its stem. You may even see the growth with a hole in its side where a woodpecker has excavated to find a meal!

Wildflowers that bloom in early spring are termed 'ephemeral' meaning that they live in the woods and complete their bloom and growth before the trees leaf out and take all the light. Here are some that were in Four Mile Creek Preserve this spring.

The demure Spring Beauty.



The Trout Lily.



FWT Newsletter - Fall 2018

And Red Trillium. These are quite rare, since they are a favorite browse for deer.



Milkweed is, as we all know, the food plant for the larval stage of the Monarch Butterfly



Appreciation of these plants and their blooms will enhance your 'walk in the woods'. I've only covered a smattering of the blooms that may be found our open space.....I hope you are able to find even more.

There is a summer-blooming plant that must not be omitted. The fields in Gosnell and WRNP abound with the showy Orange Milkweed



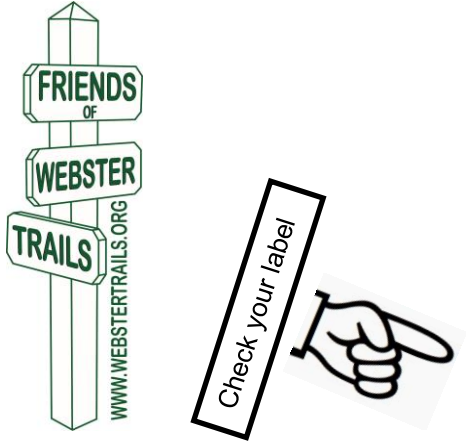
....and Common Milkweed as well.



FWT Board 2018

President	Shari Gnolek	217-2045	gnolek@rochester.rr.com
Vice President	vacant		
Secretary	Paul Dorscheid	671-9333	pdorscheid1@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bill Polito		bpolito15@gmail.com
Past President	Hal Harris	872-0597	halmharris@gmail.com
Member at Large	Dennis Kuhn	872-2452	Dukuhn@aol.com
Member at Large	Rich Morrill	872-5346	RMorrill2@cs.com
Member at Large	Larry Yost	671-6710	lw490@rochester.rr.com
Member at Large	Ron Happ	671-1961	ronaldhapp@gmail.com
Member at Large	Eric Turberg	200-6199	ericturberg@gmail.com
Member at Large	Evan Bilsback	747-5330	evanbilsback@gmail.com
Trails Chair	vacant		
Habitat Chair	Norma Platt	671-9639	normap1@rochester.rr.com
Membership Chair	Denise Bilsback	747-0738	bilsbackfamily@gmail.com
Communication Chair	John Boettcher	671-9639	johnwb2@rochester.rr.com

Friends of Webster Trails
Webster Community Center
1350 Chiyoda Drive
Webster NY 14580



Friends of Webster Trails advocates for the preservation of the natural character of Webster's open space lands. We promote through sensible management, education, and low-impact access. We advise the Parks and Recreation Department and assist by planning, maintaining and promoting recreation trails in the Town of Webster.

The Friends of Webster Trails newsletter is published each Spring and Fall

Editor: John Boettcher

Send any submissions, questions or corrections to:

johnwb2@rochester.rr.com

585-671-9639

510 Lake Road Webster NY 14580