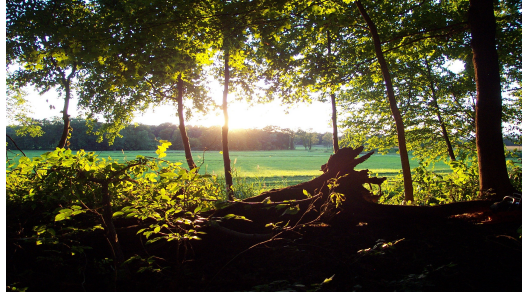


# THOMPSON MAZZARELLA PARK TRAIL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER



**September 2011**

Greetings!

Much has happened since our opening event on the Memorial Day weekend. Many of your neighbors have experienced and enjoyed the Trail System. We have received helpful suggestions for improving the route, and are in the process of implementing them. The Trail System fared quite well in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, with no washouts, and only soggy conditions along the Red Trail. We will be organizing volunteer workdays for the next sections of trail needing improvement. Dates and times are included in this newsletter and are posted on the Town website.

Recent events:

## THE FROST FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT

The Frost Family Foundation has awarded the Town a grant for the completion of the Trail System. A deciding factor in the award was the volunteer efforts that have gone into the Park, showing it is a real community effort, with a measurable benefit to Rhinebeck. Future volunteer efforts are a required component of the grant, to match funds received from the Foundation.

## RHINEBECK HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

The Committee met with Jason Grady, Coach of the Rhinebeck High School Cross-Country teams, to inquire about our Trail System as venue for Cross-Country events. Both Jason (as well as Drs. Edwin Davenport, Principal, RHS, and Joseph Phelan, Superintendent of Schools) were excited at the progress on the trail system, and hope that a cross-country event may be held at TMP this year. With a concerted volunteer effort, we are hoping a late-October meet may be held at the Park. In fact, the High School has approved Community Service Credit to those students interested in volunteering to build trails at the Park.

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Hurricane Irene has brought an unexpected benefit to the TMP. Jesse D'Attore, RHS Student and Eagle Scout Candidate, had an approved project to improve and beautify the Legion Park at the base of Crystal Lake. Due to the unfortunate destruction caused by the flooding there, it was impossible for him to complete his Project. He has therefore contacted the Trail Committee with a proposal to improve a thousand feet of trail at the Park. The trail section to be improved will be the Red Trail along the Rhinebeck Kill and Mill Pond. Jesse will be coordinating volunteers on Saturdays through the remainder of September and October. Watch the Town website for details.

**RALPH T. WATERMAN BIRD CLUB: ANONYMOUS DONATION OF BLUEBIRD HOUSES IN MEMORY OF ROBERT C. KENDALL**

The TMP Committee wholeheartedly endorsed a proposal by the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club of Dutchess County to install Bluebird houses along the Trails at the Park. Subsequently, an anonymous donor has agreed to provide ten of the houses in memory of a long-time member of the Club, Robert C. Kendall of the Town of Beekman. These houses will be installed by the Club at the appropriate time for nesting.

#### NOTED TRAIL CONSULTANT TO ADVISE THE COMMITTEE

Eddie Walsh, Principal of Tahawus Trails ([www.tahawustrails.org](http://www.tahawustrails.org)), a trail consultant and builder, has been invited to advise the committee on best practices to improve the surfaces of our trails both on the wooded sections and those adjacent to the farm fields. This advice is to be put into practice immediately at all Fall workdays, and in improvements to the Trails for a better walking and running experience at future Cross-Country events.

#### FIRST TRAIL VIEWSHED CLEARED

Thanks to the labors of the Committee and Volunteer Jeremy Kane of Winnakee Land Trust, the first viewshed has been cleared along the Blue Trail overlooking the Scholldorf Farm to the West of the Park. Take a look – it is especially beautiful in the evenings.

#### TENTATIVE VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

Here is a schedule of upcoming volunteer workdays. Please check the Town Website, Winnakee Land Trust Website, or call the number below for day-of information if you intend on participating. In preparation, volunteers should bring a hat and gloves, and gardening implements like gravel rakes, loppers, leaf rakes, and bow saws. Although most of the clearing will be in areas relatively free of dense brush, applying bug repellent and sunscreen may be appropriate. All work times will be from 9 AM to 3 PM:

SEPTEMBER 24; OCTOBER 1, 8, 15.

Thanks for your support!

Bob Wills, Thompson Mazzarella Park Trail Committee Chair

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