



Genesee Valley Hiking Club Newsletter



February 2022

President's Message

Hello to everybody and welcome to 2022! I am looking forward to a great year of hiking in and around the local area.

I consider the Omikron Covid variant to be a mere detour (albeit a significant interruption in our lives) to the full enjoyment of hiking in the Genesee Valley area. Our love of the outdoors overcomes our fear of doing some wonderful activities together. Our love of being under the blue skies of winter (when they happen LOL) beats out the fear of being together. Our desire for a healthy and active lifestyle conquers the reflex desire to stay dormant.

Our safety, our health, and our emotional well-being are intimately tied to and guaranteed by our exploration of the outdoors, our exploration of Mendon Ponds (or any other of our beautiful parks), and our footfalls on the many beautiful trails in the Genesee Valley area.

The Executive Committee is planning an end-of-February get-together. With the current Covid status in our area, we will put the safety of our members first. If we can arrange a safe get-together, we will do it. Considerations do include requiring proof of vaccination and masking. As always we will pay attention to the expert guidance of our national, state, and county health officials.

I am proud to have been voted in as President of the GVHC. I have hiked with the club since my first outing in 2009. In the intervening thirteen years, I have seen so many wonderful places that most others do not see. Over time, I started volunteering to sweep, and eventually felt confident enough to lead hikes.

At this time, we have a great need for hike leaders. I assure you that Derek Price stands ready to help anyone who wants to offer up their services as a leader. Derek carries a pretty heavy burden putting together the schedules, and the one thing that Derek would love is for an additional eight of us to step forward and lead one hike a month. That would guarantee at least one hike every Saturday and Sunday.

President's Message (continued)

Recently I did Anna's Washington Grove/Cobbs Hill hike and it was lovely to get out and do something other than vegetate on the couch. Anna led us through this beautiful grove of giant old oaks, popping out to a spectacular overlook of downtown Rochester and finally on a loop around the reservoir. The pace was good, the weather so-so but the camaraderie was excellent.

On a closing note, we are halfway through winter. Soon we will have the one thing that makes living in this area so wonderful: we will hike and take part in another changing of the seasons as the achingly beautiful white of the snow-covered branches turns into the emerald-like luster of the coming spring's green.

I look forward to seeing each and every one on the trails in 2022! Happy New Year!

Larry O'Heron

Membership

Happy New Year Hikers!

Along with the new year comes our annual member dues drive. Although our hikes are always free, we encourage everyone to become a member or renew their membership to help support some of our administrative costs. Our membership continues to grow but the number of members on meetup is considerably larger than the GVHC member list. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, so your support is greatly appreciated. Member dues are \$10 per year and can be paid very easily on PayPal. Simply go to gvhchikes.org and click "join us". New this year, you can now indicate if you are a new or returning member. Thank you so much. Here's to all our upcoming 2022 hiking achievements!

The Membership Committee

Trail Maintenance Report- FLT Bristol Hills

On Sunday, November 7, 2021, the weather was sunny and we had a great turnout. 10 GVHC members were joined by 23 others from the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Victor Hiking Trails, TrailsROC, and the boy scouts. We cleared about 3 miles in the Wildlife Maintenance Area of High Torr along Brink Hill Rd, which is on the Southern side of the river towards Naples. Ann and Patty led two groups who cleared sections of trail, including the new section off Bassett Hill Road which will eliminate the need for a one-mile road walk. We trimmed branches, added rocks to bridge wet sections, and some of us got to show off our ax skills by clearing a large tree that had fallen in the path! Thanks to all who participated. We look forward to getting back out there in the spring.



Interested in being a Hike Leader?

We continue to schedule the GVHC hikes on a 2-month basis as we do not have enough hikes/hike leaders to fill our previous 4-month schedule.

GVHC is happy to welcome three new hike leaders: Diane, Tim, and Tom!

However, we continue to lose hike leaders through injuries and illnesses, but also by previous hike leaders simply stopping.

If you have any interest in leading hikes or know someone who has expressed an interest, we can provide advice and support in hike leadership.

The volunteers who lead hikes are at the center of GVHC's ability to survive as a hiking club.

GVHC Executive Committee

President Larry O'Heron
Vice President: Patty Mangarelli
Secretary: Ann Bayley (temporary)
Treasurer: Nina Tracy

GVHC Standing Committees

Membership: Michelle Barno
Hiking: Derek Price
Trails: Ryan Bean
Social Chair: Iris Raiman
Social Committee: Ruth Tietel, Ann Bayley
March of Time: Cynthia Howk
Website Developer: Larry O'Heron
Newsletter: Anna Atwater
