

# Genesee Valley Hiking Club

## A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD RAPPENECKER GVHC PRESIDENT



You may know that Richard Rappenecker has passed away. He succumbed to cancer on July 25th, 2019. Jim and I attended the calling hours at Thomas's Funeral Home on Lake Ave and the memorial funeral service at St. Cecilia's church down the street from where we live.

I tell you this because I learned a lot about Dick at these two events. Because of his illness, Dick was not able to get out much. Many of you may not have known him; I confess that I did not and am happy to have learned about him. Dick discovered the GVHC from a Facebook ad and after finding the website he joined that night. Dick's first hike with the club was at the Helmer Nature Center to Rock Beach on January 3, 2010.

Dick grew up in the Culver/ Ridge area right down the street from where we now live. He was the eldest of 7 children. I talked to one of his sisters, who was just lovely and friendly. I saw her talking with other GVHC members during our visit. Dick attended East Irondequoit High School where he was known as a music maniac. He played guitar, piano, drums and, I think, trumpet. He was frequently seen at school carrying colorful LP records and was considered to be "way-cool." He grew his hair long and played in a band with his buddies. Eventually, Dick became a DJ and started his own business, Sunset Sound DJ Services. He was well known and respected in the local entertainment community.

One of his childhood friends called him "Dickie" and fondly shared memories of Dick's mischievous behavior. He was somewhat of a gentle prankster and participated in many youthful shenanigans. Dick worked for St. Anne's Community as the building and grounds manager for 37 years. He was a "jack of all trades" and well-liked by the staff and residents.

If you are at a gathering of hikers in the future, raise a glass to Dick and keep him in your memory. Look for a memory book about him at our October annual meeting. **Ann Bayley**

### How Members Can Help

Are you a great idea person? Do you have skills in website design? Do you love the Genesee Valley Hiking Club? We would love to hear from you! We are seeking input and help in designing the club's new website. If you would like to help, please contact: Nina Tracy, [treasurer@gvhchikes.org](mailto:treasurer@gvhchikes.org)

The club has open committee-head positions and we are looking for members who have the time, desire, and willingness to become more deeply involved in the club. We hope that anyone who is interested in participating will contact us. For more information, please contact:

Ann Bayley, [president@gvhchikes.org](mailto:president@gvhchikes.org)



### Become a GVHC Member or Renew

By investing \$8 in the Genesee Valley Hiking Club's annual membership dues, you will help to pay for the clubs Meetup sites, the website, social gatherings at our lodge events, as well as the administrative expenses needed to run the club.

You can join the Genesee Valley Hiking Club online

[GVHC Website](#)

Or mail \$8 to GVHC | 35 Chimayo Road | Rochester, NY 14617

#### Officers

President.....Ann Bayley  
 Vice President...Patty Mangarelli  
 Secretary.....Cynthia Howk  
 Treasurer.....Nina Tracy

#### Chairpersons

Membership.....Kelly Snyder  
 Hiking.....Derek Price  
 Social.....Pam Nudd  
 Publicity.....Clay Johnson  
 March of Time....Cynthia Howk  
 Marketing .....Veronica Kiereck

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am new to most of you, so I want to tell you a little about myself. I first remember hiking with GVHC in my teens in 1957. I fell in love and have been hiking with this club, off and on, since then. I retired from teaching math and science in 2001 and rejoined the GVHC. I have been hiking and leading hikes since then.

I am also fascinated by the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT). I love hiking the trail because it is wild and challenging. I can only do short, slowish paced sections because I am older, but I love it. I am on the Board of Managers for the FLTC and am learning interesting things about this 1,000-mile-long trail engineered and maintained by volunteers.

In this new position, I see your Board at work with fresh eyes. They are dedicated, smart, and hard-working. You can be proud of them. If you meet them on the trail or at a social function, please introduce yourself and thank them. We need leadership folks with technical knowledge. Please consider donating some time to your GVHC Board. This time can be used as a tax deduction so please give this some serious thought.

Dick Rappenecker always included a thank you to hike leaders in his messages, and I certainly do too. Without the hike leaders, there would not be the number and variety of hikes that there are. We are a kind of a phenomenon in New York State. We have such a large, active organization which provides hiking experiences to thousands of people a year. Think about that – it's really amazing.

I am going to encourage each of you to carry a plastic bag with you on the trail. Put any garbage you find along the trail into the bag. Plastic of any sort, especially, is to be removed whenever possible from the natural environment. Please take a picture of your group with your bag of garbage. I want to start a "Bag Brigade." where we hikers help to clean up the natural environment that we all love and cherish. I want to tell the story in picture form of our success in cleaning up our trails. Put these images on our website. People carry full cans of beer to a lovely wooded spot, drink the beer, and leave the empties! Seriously, what's up with that?!

Enjoy our changing season. Enjoy the excitement of not knowing whether you will be dry and warm throughout your hike or wet and freezing. It adds a certain something, don't you think? Please consider leading 1 - 2 hikes during our next schedule period in the early Spring and Summer. **Ann Bayley, President**