



Life by the Lakes



Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012

Finger Lakes Times

Section C

From Shore to Shore

SUSAN CLARK PORTER



A trail for everyone

Mark DeCracker and a dedicated group of volunteers are well on their way to reaching a 2011 resolution in 2012 — a Forever Wild for Everyone trail behind the Lyons Community Center.

The first Forever Wild trail was dedicated last June at Huckleberry Swamp in North Rose, a mile-long boardwalk that's easy for even wheelchairs and baby strollers to navigate.



DeCracker said the dedication attracted about 75 people, about a third of them in wheelchairs. Given the honor of cutting the ribbon was Leigh Ann Henry of Lyons, who has been in a wheelchair since a car accident two years ago.

As the organizers counted down from 10 to cut the ribbon, Henry got so excited she cut the ribbon at 8, DeCracker said.

She also expressed that she couldn't wait until her own trail is built — and DeCracker is happy to report that it's well on its way in her hometown of Lyons.

What was essentially a large dirt pile right off the parking lot of the Lyons Community Center in March is being transformed into a quarter-mile long trail with gardens, a place to feed ducks and even a covered bridge.

The group's vision is to have an educational and recreational trail filled with native species, where the young and old, ambulatory and wheelchair-bound can enjoy and learn about nature.

"We want to open the outdoors to everyone so we have it for future generations," said DeCracker, who said the entire community has come together to make this dream a reality.

Children helped plant; Wal-Mart and Seneca Meadows gave grant donations; Diane Young created the landscape design; Phelps Cement donated pavers and landscaping cloth; Santo Montemorando and Paul Stoep gave gravel, rocks and stone dust; Brian Secor of Secor Lumber gave supplies for the covered bridge; Adam Chapin and Larry Graf offered their Bobcat and grading expertise; residents donated use of their Bobcats, Windy Hill Flower Farm and Millpond Evergreen Nursery; and the list goes on.

"I can't say enough how the community businesses came together," DeCracker said.

He anticipates the trail will be dedicated this May or June. Although winter is a quiet time for work — with just some landscaping planning on the horizon — the group benefited from a mild fall and was able to complete the covered bridge in late November.

DeCracker is excited about reintroducing nature to the young and old who may have lost touch with it.

"This shows you can take a semi-urban place and turn it into nature," he said. "Nature hasn't always been there, but you can bring it back."

For video clips on the trails' progress, see these YouTube clips: www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0je4OpPMpg and www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6no9P5NEZ0.

Porter is editor of Life by the Lakes.



Salmon

FL Flavors, 2C



Finalist

Neighbors, 3C



Wedding

Unions, 5C

FAMILIES ON ICE

Youth hockey creates community of players, parents



Story and photos by
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GENEVA — Kim Ess admits she's gotten looks and words of sympathy when she tells someone her 12-year-old son, Trevor, plays hockey.

Yes, there's an investment of time and money for hockey families. But Ess, of Phelps, wouldn't have it any other way.

"The way I look at it is hockey is hopefully training him to be a good adult," she said.

Given the number of practices (usually two or three a week) and games (several over a weekend) during hockey season, it makes sense that the hockey community's bonds run deep.

"You spend a lot of time with the families. You don't have a choice," said Ess, noting the Geneva Generals' season runs from mid-September through mid-March.

To play other teams, the players travel as far south as Binghamton,

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Goalie Ammere Thomas (above) of Geneva falls on the puck as players try to score on him. At right, Bantam League Coach Dave Sharman explains a drill to his team during a recent practice. Below, Mark Campbell of Waterloo lines up a shot on goal.



To see more of Fred Bertram's photos, visit www.pbase.com/fbertram



View Finder

In December I am usually focusing my camera on snow, ice and winter birds. Rarely do I get the opportunity to take photos of flowers growing outside.

This anemone from my yard had already survived several hard frosts but continued to flower. This recent shot shows the flower after an early morning low of 13 degrees and light snow.

The mild December weather that we had was a surprise. There was also a daisy flowering in the median of a downtown Geneva parking lot.

So enjoy each mild day and get out and photograph ... I have a suspicion that there will be plenty of wintry shots before spring finds its way to the Finger Lakes.



Fred Bertram