



Friends of Thacher State Park

Emma T Thacher Nature Center • 87 Nature Center Way • Voorheesville, NY 12186
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THACHER STATE PARK trail sections that need mowing in the spring by the "DR Brush and Field Mower"

For the past 10 years or so, we used the Park's DR Brush & Field Mower to mow the trails in Thacher Park North in the Spring. Park staff delivered the John Deere Gator and DR to the trailheads with a can of gasoline. We did the several trails needing mowing in two days. The grass on the Fred Schroeder Trail, Perimeter Trail (near Old Stage Rd), Meadow Loop, and the Salisbury trails are usually 3 feet high by late June.

This spring, in two days we mowed just over 7 miles of trails. Two other trails by the Nature Center had been mowed, but we mowed two more sections totaling 2.00 miles (one mile out and one back) for a grand total of nearly 8.36 miles!

We want to thank the Park's maintenance staff – John B., Jeff, John W., and Donnie for their help and for dropping off the DR and Gator each day.



DR and "Gator" Delivery



For the last three years, we had the summer maintenance employee from the Nature Center help us. This year we had a new summer maintenance employee from the park (James) the first day and from the Nature Center (Lukas) the second day.

It's been an exceptionally rainy spring, and several trails had deep mud holes (quagmires) and others had the usual roots and rocks protruding to contend with in wooded areas. But we still completed all trails in two days. The trails are mowed twice- once going out, and once returning – making a double-wide path through the grassy areas of the trails.



Jim and Lukas mowing

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Below is a list of trails to be mowed each spring (distances are the "doubled" number).

Thacher Park North:

PERIMETER TRAIL: From Old Stage Road along the open fields to the woods and back (0.62 mi.).

FRED SCHROEDER MEMORIAL TRAIL: The Fred Schroeder Trail section in the fields (off the Long Path near Old Stage Rd.), and from the "4-Corners" to the Long Path (1.24 mi.).

LONG PATH: From the junction with the Fred Schroeder Trail (through intermittent woods and overgrown fields) to just short of the large "sink hole" (a little north of Hang Glider Road), returning by the same route (0.68 mi.).

TRAIL W-5: From the Fred Schroeder Trail – through the in the grassy areas and back (0.30 mi.).

FRED SCHROEDER MEMORIAL TRAIL: On the upper plateau from the Carrick Road quarry. From the dividing sign post beyond both trail sections to the top of the hill (where it begins to descend) and back (0.90 mi.).

MEADOW LOOP TRAIL – SALISBURY TRAIL: From Ketchum Rd. (the section South) to the edge of the woods and back. Then towards the North to the split at a sign - go left into

the woods and return. Then straight, crossing the boardwalk, to the junction with Salisbury Trail. Continue on the Meadow Loop along the back boundary to the woods (at a left turn) and return. Then (Salisbury Trail) all the way to the Perimeter Trail and return (total for all - 2.82 mi.).

SCHOOLHOUSE TRAIL and NATURE CENTER TRAIL: The field sections of these trails are sometimes mowed by Park staff, and other times with the DR. Sections done this spring with the DR: 1.00 mi. of about 1.80 mi. at the Nature Center.

by Jim & Bonnie Schaller



James (mowing) and Bonnie on the Fred Schroeder Trail



Looking for another way to support the Friends of Thacher? We have new merchandise! BPA-free water bottles made in the USA (\$10) and baseball caps in two different colors (\$12), with our catchy salamander logo. All are for sale at Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center and Thacher Visitor Center. All proceeds go to the Friends of Thacher. And, if you are a member of the Friends, you get a 10% discount! Help spread the word!

Photo by Bert Schou

Check for updates at www.friendsofthacherpark.org

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As always, call 872-0800 or 872-1237 to verify activity times and dates.

Please feel free to call any board member with questions or suggestions.

Many thanks to Jim and Bonnie Schaller, Bill Hein, Sigrin Newell, Bert Schou and Nancy Engel for their contributions to this newsletter.

Want to contribute? Please email me at cgervasi@albany.edu
Christine Gervasi—Editor

To Those Who Love Their Parks



I Love My Park Day was once again a major success across the state. The New York State Park system is one of the largest in the nation and the most beautiful due to volunteers like you who put in time and energy to keep it that way.

Over the course of the day on May 4th approximately 75 individuals including groups like Jack and Jill of America and the Albany Amateur Radio Association completed incredibly important tasks around John Boyd Thacher State Park, Thompson's Lake Campground and the Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center.

Your contributions included:

- ◇ Spreading over 50 cubic yards of mulch
- ◇ Cleaning up the Nature Center gardens

- ◇ Adopt-a-Highway clean up along Route 157
- ◇ Moving 4 tons of rubber mulch around the Pear Orchard playground area
- ◇ Building a new shed for the lifeguards
- ◇ Assembling 20 new picnic tables
- ◇ Cleaning litter and debris from the campground
- ◇ Gardening at the Visitor Center with plants from Sunnyside Nurseries in Saratoga Springs
- ◇ Escarpment Trail trimming and clean up

A barbecue lunch was held afterwards with water provided by Stewart's Shops and food from the Friends of Thacher State Park.

All of these tasks could not be completed without your help and our partnership with the Friends of Thacher State Park! Thank you so much!

Your Parks Team at Thacher State Park

- by Bill Hein



It was a dedicated crew indeed that came out in a true Helderberg fog for I Love My Park Day! Photos by Bert Schou.

Friends of Thacher Park Meeting Dates for 2019

Regular board meetings: July 10 and September 11. Annual meeting, November 13
(all meetings are at Thacher Visitor Center).

Friends of Thacher Park
c/o Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center
87 Nature Center Way
Voorheesville, New York 12186-2601



Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Next:

Board Meeting

7:00 pm at Thacher Visitor Center

Be a habitat hunter

The High Point Trail crosses a wide meadow. In May there's a sea of green on either side, with flowering Serviceberry off in the distance. As I marveled at beauty so unlike the wooded trails, I thought how lucky Thacher Park is to have so many different habitats. Here is a list. Many of these habitats could be found on several trails. For this list, I chose trails which are particularly good examples of any given habitat. How many of these have you already seen? Here's a challenge for you. Become a habitat hunter. Get to know Thacher in a new way.

Early succession: Yellow Schoolhouse Trail and Orange Nature Center trail

Hemlock: Paint Mine and the Orange Trail from Hop Field

Lakeshore: Behind the Nature Center

Beaver habitat: the Yellow Perimeter Trail from Ryan Rd. has a Beaver Pond. There is a beaver lodge in Thompson's Lake, visible from the dock at the Nature Center

Bog: In boxes behind the Nature Center

Limestone cliffs and talus slope: Indian Ladder Trail

Maple and Oak: Long Path – between Hang Glider Rd. &

the Junction with the Fred Schroeder Trail, and from the Old Stage Parking lot to the High Point Cliff

Meadow: High Point Trail or Long Path & at the beginning of the Meadow Loop Trail off Ketcham Road

Rocky stream: Paint Mine and the Orange Trail from Hop Field

Swamp: Hop Field - From Orange Trail to Yellow Trail. Also the Long Path (North) from Beaver Dam Rd

White Pine: Picnic areas at La Grange Bush and at Hop Field. Also the Orange trailhead at Hop Field

And finally, habitats for children: the playground at Horse Shoe, and for older children, Wild Play. But the very best habitat for children is *everywhere* in Thacher Park.

-by Sigrin Newell, Bonnie and Jim Schaller

You can get a color trail map at Thacher Visitor Center or at Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center.



Thompson's Lake behind the Nature Center—photo by Dave Tieman

As always, you can find a color version of the newsletter at www.friendsofthacherpark.org