

# The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



A group of children from the Eastconn camps located in Columbia, CT pose for a photo inside the museum's rail bus during a visit to the museum. All got a real close look of the operations at the museum. (Photo by Bob LaMay)



A new structure arrived at the museum. Donated by Donald and Eva Aubert of Chaplin, CT. Shown here shortly after it was unloaded. (Photo by Jean Lambert) (See story inside.)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**  
 8/21 to 8/24/08 Brooklyn Country Fair  
 8/23/08 - Concert - Patty Tuite and the Boltermakers - Country/Folk music - 4:30PM  
 9/4 to 9/7/08 Hebron Harvest Fair  
 9/7/08 - Monthly Business meeting held at Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM  
 9/21/08 - Monthly membership meeting at Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM  
 10/4, 10/5 & 10/11 - Williamantic Heritage Walking Tours  
 10/11 & 10/12 - Williamantic Airline & Neighborhood Walking Tours  
 11/2/08 - Model Train & Decast Show - 10:00AM Windham High School (Details inside)

Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.  
 Connecticut Railroad Museum  
 PO Box 665  
 Williamantic, CT 06226

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The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be held at Windham Memorial Hospital on

**Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008 @ 7:00 PM**

Please note business meeting will be Sunday Sept. 7, 2008 at the Windham Memorial Hospital at 7:00 PM. Please come and see 50 Years of Railroad Photography - Part 2 by Bob LaMay. Please stop by.

Please note! If you have photos, short articles, or just want to make a comment – please forward them to:  
**Robert A. LaMay - Editor**  
@cermf19@comcast.net

## New For Saturdays'

There will be a demonstration of the Armstrong turntable each Saturday of the museum's operating season between 1:00 and 2:00. Please stop by and see how a locomotive is turned. Also see what it's like to turn the turntable with a 25 ton locomotive sitting on the turntable.

## An Opportunity for You

By Janet Atkins

An opportunity for a male or female is available. Step right up and co-ordinate the advertising and promotional needs of the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum. Several of our activities need to be publicized in order to increase public awareness and attendance. This will translated this will mean more income for our numerous projects. Think what would happen if attendance increased by 20 or even 30 percent at the museum, train shows, concerts, auction, or the other events held for the museum. This person

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## Chapter Leadership

President	Mark Granville mfgranville@charter.net 860-456-3956
Vice President	Duke York 860-423-1878
Treasurer	Jeff Laverty jeffir@cshore.com 860-429-7961
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National Director	Ray Axelrod 860-228-3197
Newsletter Editor	– Robert A. LaMay- <a href="mailto:Cermf19@comcast.net">Cermf19@comcast.net</a> 860-228-9671

**Museum Website -**  
[www.cteastrrmuseum.org](http://www.cteastrrmuseum.org)

would also need to publicize the arrival of the various additions of equipment at the museum.

Presently we are getting some publicity, but are also missing out on several opportunities where we can get free publicity. Once a contact list is properly set up this job wouldn't be too demanding. Several members are doing a fine job in selecting areas presently but filling the gaps could make promotion more effective.

After all, if you step up for this position you can help the organization but you won't have to do some the more arduous physical work such as driving spikes, spreading ballast, eating cinders, or painting and scraping.

Someone can nicely fill this nitch! Please call Adrian Atkins at 860-423-5930 to discuss what you can do.

## Parking Lot Beautification Project

By Janet Atkins

We, Janet Atkins and Pat Jurovaty, are learning quickly that the deer like the parking lot flowers. Talk about a free buffet! Plants that survive deer damage in

our own yards don't seem to get by the Railroad Deer, a much tougher breed.

However, we do hope you enjoyed the daffodils, iris, bee balm, and lilies this summer. We have chives, lily of the valley, columbine, honeysuckle, and forsythia taking hold very nicely. A nice sized pine tree was also donated and it looks like it's doing well. We still need more plant material. Our list still includes butterfly bush and Russian sage. Good root spreading plants are great labor savers.

We are ready to do more planting this fall, so please consider what you could dig from your gardens and lawns. We need plants that can take both hot and dry conditions. Please call Janet Atkins at 860-423-5930 to set up a time to deliver your plant material. We could also use help in maintaining and planting. It is much easier than swinging a mallet on the rails.



The above photo shows some recent bushes that have taken root and are growing very nicely. (Bob LaMay Photo)

## Local Groups Visit Museum

By Robert A. LaMay

During July the museum has had a couple different groups visit and tour the museum. The first group consisted of approx 12 individuals from the Holy Family Shelter of Willimantic. The other group from the Eastconn Camps of Columbia consisted of 15 chaperons along with 70 campers. Both groups were given tours of the museum and were shown a demonstration of how the turntable operated.



In this photo Jeff Laverty gives a historical railroad talks to the children from the Holy Family Shelter. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tours. (Jean Lambert Photo)



This photo shows the Eastconn campers and their chaperons lined up along the roundhouse lead. (Photo by Jean Lambert)

## The Chaplin Shanty

By Jean Lambert

Originally used as a lineman's shanty when the Chaplin Station was in use at Clarke's Corner along the famed Air Line Route. It was recently donated and brought to the museum on Saturday July 26, 2008. It was donated by Donald and Eva Aubert of Chaplin, CT.

Eva's family the Navins has a long history of over 107 years of railroad experience. Some of her family helps build the railroad in her area. As Eva says, they were also the same ones who dismantled the line as when the Air Line was discontinued. She is donating the shanty in memory of her railroading family.

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Museum members load the Chaplin Shanty onto trailer at the Chaplin site. Left to right – Duke York, Walt Dumas, Bill Nickerson, and Adrian Atkins. (Bob Hassett Photo)



Our latest acquisition, the Chaplin Shanty arrived safely and is being lifted off trailer. (J. Lambert photo)



Chaplin Shanty at museum. Come see it. (J. Lambert Photo)

## Walking Weekend Coming

Numerous events are planned for the upcoming Walking Weekend. Here are two samples –

### Willimantic Railroad Heritage Walks

Enjoy a stroll near the Willimantic River and the old New Haven Rail Yard, while learning about the railroad history of Willimantic and the interdependence of rails, mills and the river. Equipment displays and anecdotes highlight this walk. Optional tour of museum (\$3.00). Gravel road is 1.25 miles and lasts 1.5 hours. Cameras allowed. Dates – Sat Oct. 4 – 2:00PM, Sun Oct 5 – 12:30PM, and Sat. Oct. 11 – 2:30PM Please meet at entrance to Conn. Eastern Museum main entrance.

### Willimantic Airline & It's Neighborhood

Enjoy an anecdotal stroll down Union and Plain Streets before the redevelopment that took out a chunk of downtown and then walk the 'Airline' towards Willimantic's other river. We will walk along the Veteran's Railroad and talk about the 'Ghost Train', Willimantic industry, and town history. Paved surfaces approx 2 miles lasting 1.25 hours. Cameras allowed. Jillson Square parking Lot D. Dates – Sat. – Oct 11 – 11:00AM and Sun. Oct. 12 – 1:00PM



## Around the Museum



Caboose craftsmen Duke York and Bill Bouchelle start the early restoration of the museum's Central Vermont Center Cupola caboose. (RA LaMay Photo)



Bill Bouchelle and Duke York start the early stages of dismantling the CV Center Cupola caboose in order for the restoration to begin. (RA LaMay Photo)



Master of the Wood, Duke York works on the cupola of the museum's Central Vermont caboose. (RA LaMay Photo)



Adrian Atkins starts clearing for the eventual ash pit track will be added at a later date. (RA LaMay Photo)



Dick Arnold, Andy Fischer, and Art Hall, Jr. discuss the next steps for Pit no. 3. (RA LaMay Photo)



Another craftsman, Bull Bouchelle works on the interior of the cupola. (RA LaMay Photo)



Work continues on the restoration of Pit Track no. 3 as rail is brought into the roundhouse. (RA LaMay Photo)