

# The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

## In Memory of Mary-Lou DeVivo



With the recent passing of Mary Lou DeVivo it was fitting to have the museum's Mary Lou locomotive (she purchased and donated it to the museum) in the 2015 Boom Box Parade. Shown here (L to r) is Janet Atkins, Duke York, and Jean Lambert. (Bev York Photo)

## Up to Date - Air Line Trail Progress

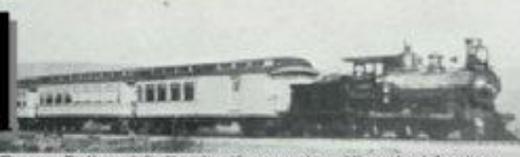


Here is a view of our new and wider gate entrance. Note how the fence-line was reconfigured and the trail is just off to the left. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 08/16/2015 – Monthly Membership Meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital
- 09/05/2015 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Railroad – Details next GTJ
- 09/06/2015 – Monthly Business meeting – 7PM Windham Hospital
- 09/10-13/2015 – Hebron Harvest Fair – Volunteers Needed
- 09/20/2015 - Membership Meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital



Vol. 40 - Number 6 - June 2015

**Monthly Membership Meetings  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month.**

**Sunday, Aug. 16, 2015 @ 7:00 PM  
Windham Hospital**

**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**

### Help Needed on Sundays

**NOTE!!! Effective Immediately - Sunday Hours are NOW 12 NOON to 4:00PM!!**

If you have any free time and would consider volunteering a few hours on Sunday between Noon and 4PM it will greatly be appreciated. Last year we lost 3 important members and another one this year who devoted their time to volunteering on Sundays. They are gone and we have no one else we can depend upon. except our membership. So it you would like to give some time on Sundays - your help is greatly needed. No, you don't have to be a sales person; we just need good people to help keep our museum going. This is about the only way we can get funding for the events we do run. So please consider giving us some time on Sunday. If we don't get the help we need - we just don't know what decisions will have to be made in the near future. Please help us.

With our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Railroad Day just around the bend - we'd like to see more members volunteer to help support these special fund raising events. Please give us some of your time.

Bob LaMay - Ghost Train Journal Editor



Summer2015

### Chapter Leadership

President	Mark Granville mfgranville@charter.net 860-456-3956
Vice President	Duke York 860-423-1878
Treasurer	Jeff Laverty Jeffrr41@yahoo.com 860-429-7961
Asst-Treasurer	Jean Lambert 860- 455-0268
Secretary	Bill Robinson wer384@charter.net 860-456-4903
National Director	Ray Axelrod 860-228-3197
Newsletter Editor	Bob LaMay 860-530-1278 Cermf19@comcast.net

**Museum Website -**  
[www.cteastrrmuseum.org](http://www.cteastrrmuseum.org)  
Check out - Face Book!

### Adrian's Landing - Finally Completed

Adrian Atkins

When I first came to the museum the western end contained a large gulch. It was a dump with a chain link fence around it. One of the museum's long term goals was to finish this area so storage track could be put down in this area. There was some good gravel in the area and this over time was stockpiled behind the Mayflower van for future use.

As free fill became available to use we started filling in the area. When Mansfield Avenue was being rebuilt, about 10 years ago, we received about 5000 cubic yards of fill. This gave us a big start for achieving our goal.

The trail contractor, Trade Mark Contractors has delivered the needed 1000 cubic yards of fill to complete the project. This has been leveled and the side of the slope graded, seeded and

mulched. Green grass is already to show and this will secure the slope from erosion. Steve Melady managed to donate three large bales of hay for mulch.

The western end of this area now towers about 8 feet above the fence-line. From this vantage point you can view a great example of what Jean-Paul Violette has accomplished along the fence-line around the museum grounds. Presently he is performing maintenance spraying and trimming of the low hanging branches. We now have a large flat area where we can now extend tracks into a storage area and this area is now less of an eyesore.



View from Gate 6 at the southwest side of Adrian's Landing showing the embankment and the fence-line. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



This view, looking west, shows Rolf Johnson standing about half way back on the landing with SPV on the right. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

## Rails to Trails – An Update

Adrian Atkins

Things are happening fast and furiously on both the Air Line and Hop River Trails as they impact the museum. On the section of the Air Line Train looking towards the bridge over the river, once can see major changes. A temporary work gate has been installed and the entire chain link fencing past this point has been removed along the railroad embankment leading to the bridge over the river. Trees have been removed on our side of the gate and the contractor is temporarily utilizing this area in conjunction with the project. Initially, all trees were chipped and stumps ground up in the area. At present, salvaged loam is being screened in this area.

The entire project from Mackey's on the Route 66 to Mickey's in the Bridge Street area has been cleared of trees and stumps. The clearing and grubbing subcontractor, Back Woods Construction Corp. is being very considerate of the museum, considering the size of all his equipment, which is massive and if he really wanted to could be 'like a bull in the china shop'. You can observe progress along our driveway from the main gate, along our driveway from the east side of the railroad bridge, and from the side of Route 66 from Mackey's driveway. The trail along the river from the railroad bridge to Mackey's is quite pleasant.

The screened loam is presently being stockpiled along our driveway where the trail will pass. After the trail is paved the loam will be spread along the trail shoulder.

Changes at our main gate have occurred. A new chain link gate has been installed and the fence behind our ticket booth has been relocated. Loam has been spread inside the fence area and looks better already. A concrete retaining wall will be constructed to support the trail  
Summer2015

which will be just outside the new entrance gate.

As the contractor is digging up the old railroad ties, these are being stockpiled along the driveway. Eventually, the contractor will haul these away to an appropriate disposal facility.

Despite the on-going discussion as to whether the trail will help or hinder the museum currently. We are receiving real benefits from the current construction phase. The contractor has delivered about 1000 cubic yards of fill to Adrian's Landing.

Currently loam is being stockpiled behind the Mayflower trailer. In order to create a large work area the contractor screened our loam pile. We are using some of this screened loam to improve the grassy area around in our picnic area. Doing this will lessen the tripping hazards for the public and make it easier to mow and just walking around.

More fill from the project has been stockpiled behind the roundhouse. Some of this is being utilized to complete the railroad crossing between the Chaplin Station and the Blacksmith Shop.

As the old saying goes ....' We were giving lemons and now we are making lemonade.'



Bob Hassett admires the recent lettering job on our Rutland Railroad Caboose #40. The lettering was done by Jan McCollum and Dick Arnold. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



'Look Ma – No Hands!' – Rolf Johnson prepares to do some mowing to get ready for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Railroad Day – Sat. 09/05/2015. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



A couple weeks later Rolf and Carolyn decided to 'Do It – cutting the low hanging branches along the line.' Another prep job for Railroad Day. (R.A. LaMay Photo)

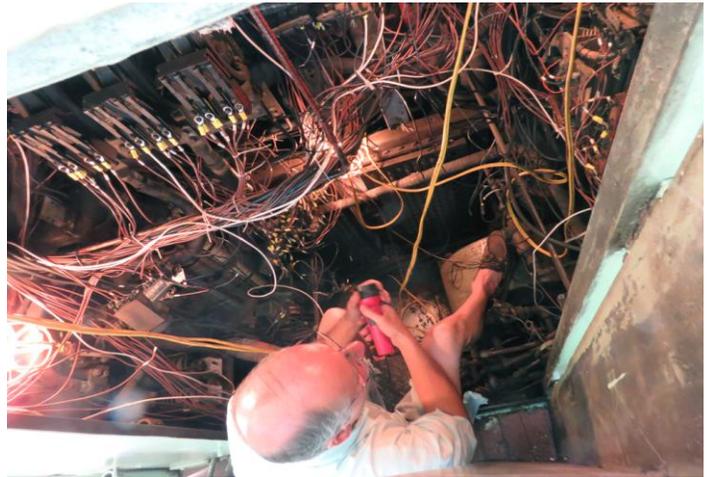
# The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



The museum hosted a private tour of a group from Douglas Manor located in Windham. Member Ray Axelrod provided the historical commentary and was the tour leader. (Jean Lambert Photo)



Here is a bird's eye view of Dan Ditullio working with the wiring inside our Alco S4. Out of frame to the left is Cliff Lund giving him the wire numbers so Dan can trace each one to its respective spot. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Shown here is Bob Hassett with our new mascot found in the Willimantic River :-). (LaMay Photo)



We like our 'Shiny New Looking' box cars at the museum. Here Ed Shekleton power washes our Grand Trunk steel box car. Ed also power washed the decking for the freight house and the Chaplin Station. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)