

# The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

## Visitors to our Museum



Members of the Hartford Division Railroad Enthusiasts pose at our museum during their annual picnic. From left to right – Paul Yurko, Bob Welk, Jr., and his Father Bob Welk Sr. (Jean Lambert Photo)



This photo shows one of the Nutmeg Antique Truck Club's trucks that visited the museum during their annual picnic. (Jean Lambert Photo)

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

10/31/2015 – Railroad Day – Thompson, CT – details inside.  
11/1/2015 – Monthly Business Meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital  
11/15/2015 – Membership Meeting – Officer Elections held  
12/6/2015 – Monthly Business Meeting – 7PM Windham Hospital



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

**Sunday, Sept. 20, 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**

### FREE Books!!

**Jean Lambert**

Free Books!! Our members get first chance to look through over 200 railroad books, at the museum Gift Shop. There are many good books that could make a great addition to your home library collection. Our second option is to donate them to local libraries. We prefer NOT to trash them. We end our season October 31<sup>st</sup>. I will be available should anyone like to go through the collection during the off season. Please contact me at 860-942-1071 or [train0034@gmail.com](mailto:train0034@gmail.com) to set up some time.

### Railroad Day – Thompson CT.

**Jean Lambert**

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum is co-sponsoring this event – to be held 10/31/2015. The event will take place at Tourtellotte Memorial High School located 785 Riverside Drive in North Grovsvendale, CT. Here is the schedule for the day's events –

### Chapter Leadership

President	Mark Granville
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Treasurer	Jeff Laverty
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	<b>Museum Website -</b>
	<a href="http://www.cteastrrmuseum.org">www.cteastrrmuseum.org</a> .
	Check out – Face Book!

12:00N – Tourtellotte Memorial High School Opening with viewing of Ramsdel Photo Collection.

12:30PM – Presentation by Tom Chase – Selected items from the Ramsdel Collection.

1:00PM – Presentation by Bob Belletskie – Great Thompson Train Wreck – 12/04/1891

2:00PM – Depart to Thompson Train Wreck Site

2:30PM – Wreck Site Walk – Guides – Bob Belletskie & Larry Lowenthal, and Ray Axelrod.

### Trail Progress

**Adrian Atkins**

As of October 1, 2015 a lot of work has been completed along the Hop River/ Airline Trail. Most of the trail has been excavated and the

processed gravel base installed. The retaining wall by our new main gate has been completed. The main gate and fencing in that area has been installed. The general appearance at our main gate is much improved.

The trail beside our drive, between our main gate and the parking lot, hugs the woods, but our handicapped parking area has been greatly diminished.

Most of the screened loam stockpiled along our drive has been placed along the edges of the trail prior to asphalt paving. At present there is a stockpile of loam in our parking lot. This will be used along the sides of the trail between our parking lot and Mickey's compound to the east.

No work has started on the Airline Railroad Bridge deck. This is due to start shortly. More excavation needs to be done on the railroad embankment heading to the Willimantic River Bridge. We are to receive fill from this area which will be stockpiled in the area west of the Mayflower trailer and adjacent to the Airline Trail where the loam is screened.

Asphalt paving is scheduled for October as is our driveway construction. Our new driveway from Mickey's compound to our parking lot will be 18 feet wide with 3 inch processed gravel topping over and 8 inch gravel base. This should be an improvement over our existing driveway.

The contractor still feels the bulk of the work will be completed by end of year.



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



This photo shows the missing loam piles which now have been spread along next to the trail. Further down the road is the parking lot on the left. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



This is the latest view looking back towards the roundhouse in the center, the wye area on the left, and the Air Line track bed to the right. Notice how clean this looks. (LaMay Photo)

## Parking Lot Beautification Project

Janet Atkins

There hasn't been a great deal of information to share with you this past season regarding the parking lot plantings. You have been kept informed about the Airline/Hop River Trail construction and there has been an expected uncertainty as to when work would take place in the parking lot. The proposed trail alignment laid out by Art Hall, Jr. and Mark Granville a year ago was right on target and so the removal of the birch tree and the burning bushes was obvious.

So, the gardeners pretty much took the summer off to contemplate the future of the gardens. When the trail is completed we will be reviewing the conditions and planning for spring. The April Town Pride, Town Wide event brings a group of ESCU

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Students to our museum and they have been a great help in cleaning the beds from the winter season. You can expect to hear an appeal for help from the membership again this spring. An hour or two from a few people reduces the work load and is a very pleasant way to share your time in support of the museum. We appreciate the comments about the unexpectedness of finding flowers at a railroad museum. The parking lot creates a first impression of the museum to those who pass by.

## Redevelopment

Adrian Atkins

The area west of the roundhouse heading towards the Willimantic River railroad bridge is being brought to useful life. The area north of the Mayflower trailer was a jungle of vines, brush, and debris at the beginning of the year. See photo above as to how it looks now.

I was able to make arrangements with the trail contractor. If he cleared and leveled the western triangle of this area, I would let him use this area to chip trees, grind stumps and screen loam as well as store equipment. Ultimately he will leave us a stockpile of soft fill from the railroad embankment. We had a pile of loam in this area, which he screened and has stockpiled on the landing. This pile grew in the process.

This area looked so good we now are clearing the balance of the area. All land clearing and grubbing has been completed. Selected large trees remain. A few loads of fill from our driveway will level this area out.

A pile of fence materials remains. This is fencing taken down along the top of the fill leading to the railroad bridge. Some of this will be reinstalled when the trail work is completed. There is also a pile of asphalt street millings. We need this to fill in a section of our driveway at Mickey's between the end of our new

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drive and the area where we placed millings a couple years ago. If you have been wondering why there is a big dip in our drive it is because we were not sure exactly where the drive would be in this area. We are ultimately planning to add a passing siding in this area and need exactly where the trail would be located.

Along the north fence line in this area Jean-Paul Violette had previously cleared all the brush. We have now placed ties along the base of this entire stretch of fence, graded and seeded the slope.

What are we going to do in this cleared area?

- 1 – Hopefully – a stockpile of soft fill
- 2 – Re-organize switch points and frogs next to mayflower trailer
- 3 – Move concrete ties and granite curb piles from behind roundhouse
- 4 – Move bridge timbers that are now located along drive.

I am sure we will come up with more uses and hopefully in an organized plan.



Jean Lambert captured this priceless photo while working at museum. (J. Lambert Photo)

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Taken at the Brooklyn Fair shows the museum display plus sales table. Thanks go to Rick Cizik and Jean Lambert for their volunteer efforts. (Jean Lambert Photo)



A truck from the Nutmeg Antique Truck Club poses with a museum train. (Jean Lambert Photo)



Visitors from the Audubon Society of Pomfret, CT. show their happiness and support of the museum's Mary Lou locomotive. (Jean Lambert Photo)