



NEWS  
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*photo by Rudy Klais*

*Unimproved section of the Heritage Rail Trail a mile west of Cottekill RR station. Foreground: several piers which supported iron work of former trestle over Cottekill Creek. Background: abutment which supported one end of trestle. Onlooker: Ed Pastusak of High Falls.*

**The Heritage Corridor Rail Trail  
 A Challenging Work in Progress**

Our members, we know, are prone to hiking, biking, birdwatching and just generally rambling about the natural beauties of Ulster County. Herewith, for their edification, a status report on one of the area's most unusual — and certainly its skinniest — natural resources.

The formal name for the whole project is the Delaware & Hudson Canal Heritage Corridor Alliance, but "rail trail" serves informally because this 38-mile artery running from the Holiday Inn outside Kingston to Spring Glen at the Sullivan County line is based chiefly on unused trackbed of the defunct Ontario & Western Railroad.

The corridor also includes miles of paths running along the old canal, and the nonprofit alliance that is running the project has ambitious plans for subsidiary bike paths, canoe ramps on the Rondout Creek, parking facilities at access points and walking tours that would take in local historic sites.

Much has been accomplished, but Sheldon Quimby, who has been acting as chairman of the alliance, says work might go on for another 10 years. The 3-mile section from Hurley to Marcott Road, he says, is "pretty well finished; it's finished and it's usable — but proceed at your own caution." South of Marcott Road, it's a "little sketchy," but some sections are accessible.

The corridor is designed for hiking, biking, horse-back riding, cross-country

*(Continued on page 4)*

