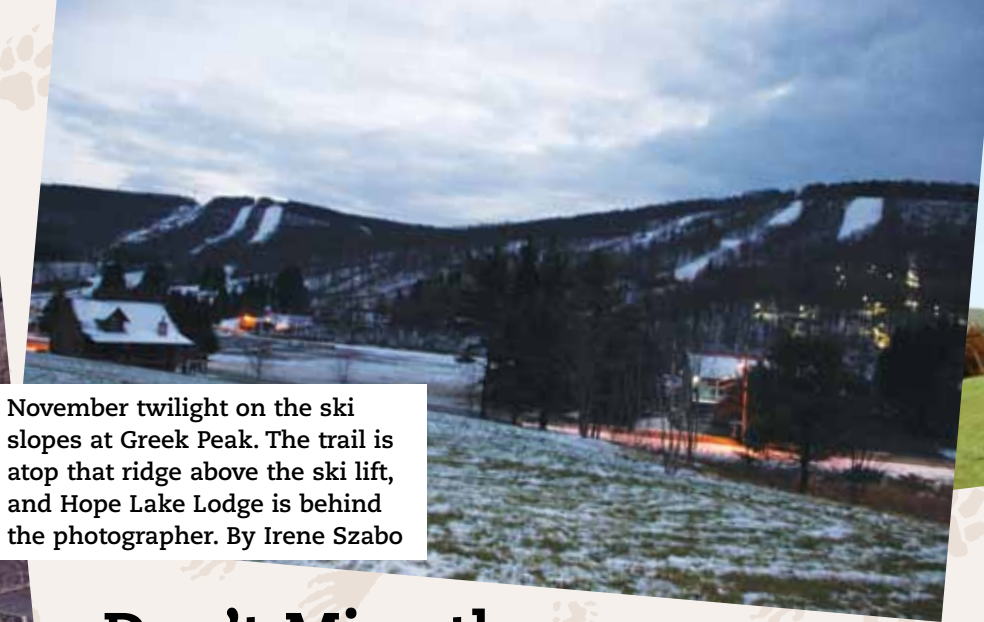




Taughannock Falls from above. We'll take that in during one of Friday's tours. By Vinnie Collins



November twilight on the ski slopes at Greek Peak. The trail is atop that ridge above the ski lift, and Hope Lake Lodge is behind the photographer. By Irene Szabo



Buttermilk Falls can be seen on Friday. By Tom Reimers

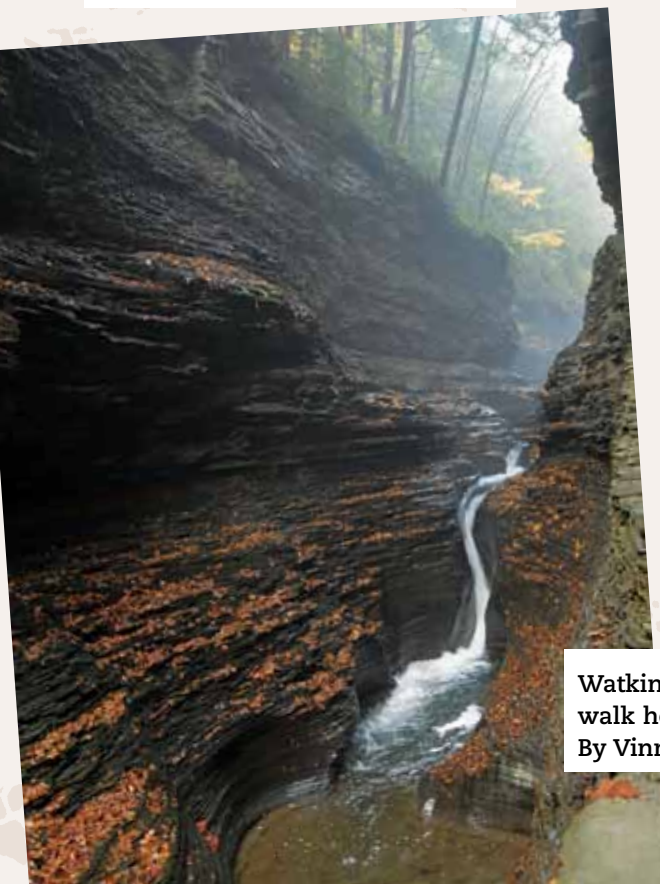
Don't Miss the 8-State Rendezvous In New York!

From September 10-13 the Finger Lakes Trail will host a long weekend of fun, hikes, tours, and training centered at the luxurious Hope Lake Lodge across from Greek Peak ski hill in the center of upstate New York. This will be a time for ALL members from all EIGHT states of our eventual trail to gather for a good time, visiting old friends from the far ends of the North Country Trail, and making new ones.

The Area: Very rural and often forested, a few miles south of Cortland and under an hour from Syracuse, the Lodge is surrounded by state forests on two sides where the FLT/NCT travels. In fact, the trail passes just behind the top of the ski lift on the ridge across from our lodge.

The Lodge: Luxurious doesn't have to mean expensive. All rooms are suites of varying sizes, with most featuring two double beds for four, many with full kitchens! So those of us willing to share a double bed will be able to sleep in a new and gorgeous hotel for only \$38 per night, which includes a full breakfast! There are also nearby motels and a campground, so alternatives exist. Registration will be handled by the FLT staff and volunteers, so we'll help put roommates together for those not in a group. The Lodge also can entertain non-hikers with a water park, zip lines, a high aerial course, high challenge facilities, mountain coasters, and a spa!

Forest creature footprints in concrete invite us into each of the Lodge's doorways, and one forest creature in the carpeting of each floor leads toward the elevators, should you become disoriented. Some rooms even have balconies; sorry, no choice.



Watkins Glen lower gorge. We'll walk here on Saturday. By Vinnie Collins



Hope Lake Lodge from the same photographer's position at Greek Peak, in spring. By Irene Szabo



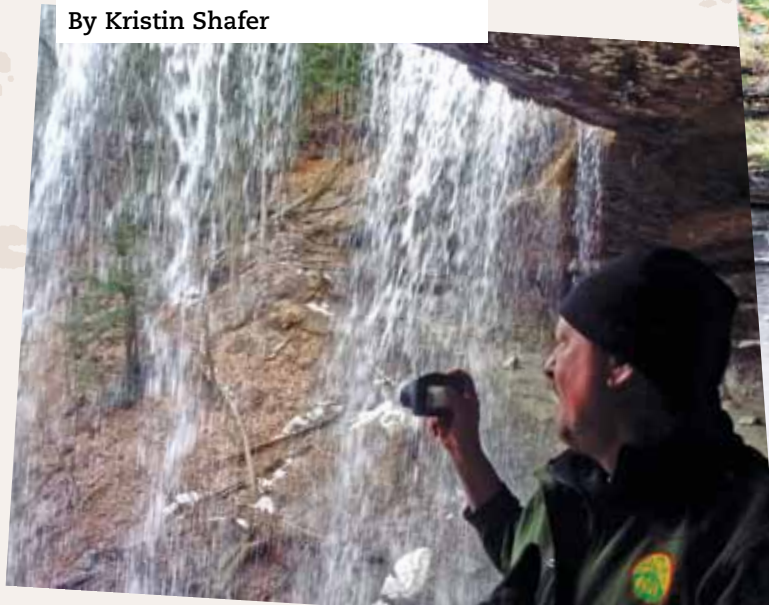
Another part of Watkins Glen gorge. By Vinnie Collins

The Hiking Program: Thursday and Sunday hikes will be relatively local, some self-guided and others led by experienced volunteers, while we will ALL go to the Ithaca area (Friday) and Watkins Glen (Saturday, by bus) for a featured list of rather fabulous hikes to spectacular locations, many including famous waterfalls, or tours to non-hiking features nearby. All registrants will get free FLT maps of the area. And if Vinnie Collins' pictures of the gorge at Watkins Glen State Park don't entice you, then perhaps you should check your pulse!

The Training: We are planning on a half-day on Optimal Location Review to help us choose ideal trail routes, a crosscut saw training session which will include a lot of the smart things chain sawyers learn in their course, but aimed at those of us who don't like their saws to move so fast, and first aid courses that certified sawyers need to renew frequently. There will be a program on mapping technology, too.

The Programs: National Park Service and North Country Trail Association awards will be given out over two evenings, while presentations on route planning in NY's Adirondacks for the NCT, murals along the Erie Canal's towns, and an introduction to the extension into Vermont are planned. Evening meals are buffet style and sumptuous, with a cash bar.

Kevin Normile takes a picture from behind Tinker Falls.
By Kristin Shafer



Details and registration materials will be online by the end of March since this is still not an official NCTA "conference," which prevents us from using all the pages required in your magazine. *Your FLT hosts hope it still feels like one anyway!* For those who prefer to get their materials on paper, a call to the FLT office will get them mailed to you: (585) 658-9320, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM any day except Wednesday, or email fltinfo@fingerlakestrail.org. Helpful websites: hopelakelodge.com, greekpeakmtnresort.com

Materials will be online at

<http://fingerlakestrail.org/trail/FallEvent> by the end of March.

Questions after you see our website? Ask Chair Irene Szabo, (585) 658-4321, treewenie@aol.com. ✱

Tinker Falls will be on Sunday's hike. By Larry Blumberg

