

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Winter 2011



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And much more!

www.fingerlakestrail.org

President's Message

Pat Monahan

Mother Nature is certainly a force to be reckoned with regardless of where she decides to show her might. This fall, many people in the Southern Tier of New York and our southern neighbors in Pennsylvania experienced the destruction that only a flood can cause, not just in one house but in the neighborhoods, communities, and regions that lie along the mighty rivers' edges. It did not stop there either. Accesses to trailheads throughout the state were devastated including some in the Adirondacks and Catskills. Trails along rivers were completely submerged until the water receded. The call for help was a familiar one for me as I recalled the sight and sounds and smells after the Flood of '72 (Agnes) that wiped out communities in the Susquehanna watershed. I heard the call and decided to spend my free time assisting where I could in the Binghamton area. It was very humbling to carry furniture back into a woman's house, carry boxes from one truck to another and even gut a basement that was slowly being overcome with the mold growing within the walls. I decided to forego my longer day hikes and replaced them with short walks in the woods. The walks were refreshing and helped to keep me centered to work and help where I could. The fall went by very quickly.

As we enter this winter season, many of the outdoor chores around the trail are slowing down. Maintenance activities by the numerous volunteers have been completed as we await the colder snowier weather we know is coming. The trail (and some of us as well) will rest as temperatures drop while we head indoors near a glowing fireplace. Your Board of Managers will also be taking time out from busy schedules and from getting ready for winter tasks, for a working weekend retreat on November 11-13. It is



a time for the FLTC leadership to take a break from the busy regular meeting agendas and concentrate on discussions that will help move the organization forward. We must prepare for the future if we are to flourish in 2012 and beyond. The topics for discussion will include budget development for 2012, the impact of gas well drilling—particularly hydro fracturing (fracking)—on our land owners, the electronic age, updating our long range planning document, and moving forward with the executive director search. I will report on the results of our discussions in the spring 2012 newsletter.

We are an organization that is in leadership transition. We began the search for a new executive director last fall and anticipate hiring the new person to begin in summer 2012. As you know, Gene Bavis, our current Executive Director, will be retiring in the spring or early summer, 2012. We will also be looking for a Vice President of Membership and Marketing, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor in addition to a new class of Board Managers. (I will comment more about these wonderful volunteers in the spring.) This is a great opportunity for us and for you as well. You may have the skills necessary to volunteer in one of these capacities. You may know someone who could be nominated to one of these positions and would never think of it themselves. There are many talented people in our organization and beyond who would make wonderful candidates. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact me or our nominating chairperson, Phil Metzger, by e-mail (contact information listed inside the back cover).

Get out your cross country skis, your snow shoes, or go any way you like, but "Go take a hike!"

Join the FLTC Yahoo! groups e-mail list

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference's e-mail list is a discussion group hosted by yahoo.com. Its purpose is to allow the subscribers (approximately 400 people) to communicate information to each other pertaining to FLT hikes and other FLTC activities, and to also allow subscribers to post general hiking-camping-backpacking and/or FLT-related questions that can be answered by any of the other participants.

The co-moderators who will oversee the use of this electronic mailing list and offer help with questions are: Larry Blumberg (lblumberg@stny.rr.com) and Jack VanDerzee (vanderzee@ithaca.edu).

To join the group, send a note to one of the co-moderators, or go to the FLTC website (fingerlakestrail.org) and follow the instructions for subscribing.



FINGER LAKES TRAIL NEWS

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference is to build, protect, enhance, and promote a continuous footpath across New York State. Forever!

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Send **address changes** to Gene Bavis, Executive Director, at the Mt. Morris address above or gbavis@rochester.rr.com.

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Georgiana Binder



(L to R) To reposition the north end of a bridge on the Bristol Hills Branch Trail, Gus Phillips, John Burnham, Mark Musso and Lynda Rummel pry up and slide the edge of the bridge end over the sills while Ron Navik pulls the end toward the sills using the Grip Hoist.

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And on the back cover...

Celebrate the FLT's Fiftieth Anniversary, June 15-17 at Keuka College

Cover: The photo was taken by FLTC Board member and Natural Connections columnist John A-X. Morris on a December hike on map M28 with the Bullthistle Hiking Club. John says, "We had stopped for lunch in an open field, and I wandered around a bit and saw this shot. It was the last sunshine we saw on the hike, but it certainly made a grand exit!"



Photos by
Jacqui Wensich



Attractive mushrooms
seen on a
Fall Campout hike.

The Interactive Map — Wow!

by Dave Drum, Chairman Land Navigation Committee

The FLTC's Land Navigation Committee is very excited to offer our members and the rest of our hiking community a superb hike planning tool—the interactive online map of the Finger Lakes Trail, including all the branch trails. The map is readily found on the FLTC website. In fact, it's really hard to miss!

Selecting the link to the map will lead the user to the Interactive Map (Segmented) option. For Internet Explorer browser users, the map is segmented into four regions to improve performance. Users of older versions of IE may also experience difficulties or errors in displaying the map. If you do have problems displaying the map in IE (as I did), I would recommend trying the Google Chrome browser. You will be amazed at the difference in performance.

Clicking on one of the segments of the map will bring up the trail on Google terrain background. The colors of the trail match the blaze color of the trail with the exception that the main trail is shown in black for better visibility against the various backgrounds selectable from the drop down list in the upper right corner. Check out the U.S./Can: MyTopo option when zoomed way in. Very nice!

Naturally the user will want to immediately click on the “How to use this map (Read me first)” button. No? Well, please click it anyway. It's worth it. Trust me on this.

If you really can't wait, click a couple of times on the zoom bar in the upper left until the icons appear. When the mouse pointer moves across one of the icons, it will change shape to a hand with index finger pointing. This is where the fun really starts!

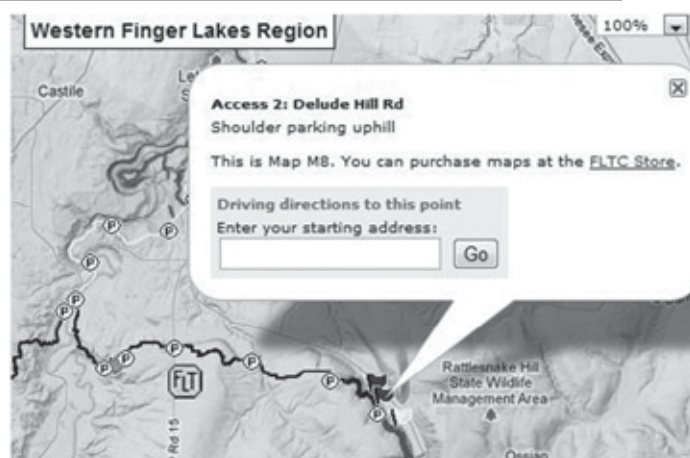
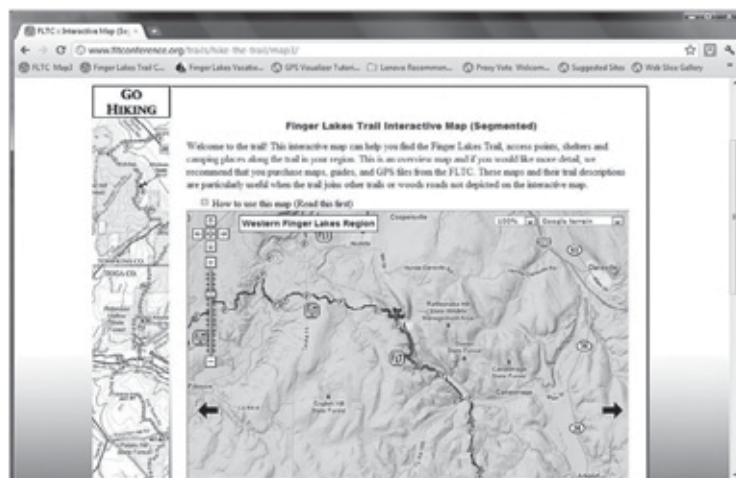
Clicking on the parking icon (the P in the circle) brings up the description of the parking area, and, get this, the chance to get driving directions to that location from Google! Clicking on the tent icon brings up a description of the camping area or lean-to. Clicking on

Get driving directions to trailhead parking areas.

the red flag icon (hunting closure) brings up details of the closure. Clicking on the FLT icon will bring up information about the paper map that describes the trail in that region. And the best part for those of us who want to know just how much uphill and down we have chosen to hike, clicking on the trail will bring up an elevation profile! It doesn't get any better than that!

We sincerely hope that this brief introduction intrigues you enough to give the interactive map a try. We think you will find it a much more interesting and informative way to plan your next hike, or just have some fun! If you have suggestions for improvement, please let us know.

Here's a big “Thank You” to the many people on the Land Navigation Committee and its predecessor, the Maps and Trails Committee, who



contributed in a variety of ways to bringing the interactive map into existence. Special recognition is due to Don McClimans, Joe Dabes, and Roger Hopkins. Without their technical leadership and just plain hard work, the map would still be a pipe dream. Thanks Again!

Happy Clicking!

As you may have read, we are in transition mode. I am planning to retire after our 50th Anniversary Celebration next June, AND several key volunteers have also announced their intentions to step down. I'm sure that we'll be able to find talented individuals to help us maintain the momentum we've built up over the past several years. If you or someone you know is a possible replacement for me or one of our volunteers, please contact us.

Thanks to those of you who have contributed to the 2011 Annual Appeal Campaign. If you are able to support our cause at any level, we certainly appreciate it. We do our very best to use our income carefully to support our mission. Thanks for your past and future support.

We are gearing up to collect data on Trail Maintenance activities during 2011. Last year, volunteers logged nearly 25,000 hours. It is important for us to collect this data because it shows the commitment we have, and when we speak with public agencies or possible funding sources, having facts to present makes a difference. If you are a trail maintainer, please make sure you report your hours.

We are currently working on the production of two new Passports for the Finger Lakes Trail. As you know, we introduced the Passport Program for the central section of the FLT in 2010. Initially, we printed 15,000 booklets. This past summer, Wegmans printed another 5,000 for us. While the booklet says prizes are not guaranteed past October, 2011, we will continue to offer the patch for as long as we have some, and I believe we may be able to give some coupons as well. So, feel free to continue doing (or starting) our existing Passport Hikes. Our Eastern and Western Passports may be somewhat different depending on whether or not we are able to secure sponsors. Stay tuned for news in our spring *FLT News*.

I would like to make a pitch for our 50th anniversary celebration. The date is June 15-17, 2012, and the location is Keuka College, the place where it all



From the Desk of the Executive Director

.....
Gene Bavis

started back in 1962. We have accomplished much in 50 years, and our vision is to accomplish even more in the future. We just recently added an interactive map on our website. Way back in 1962, we didn't have all this technology, but our founders were able to do amazing things. We would like to

make our 50th anniversary weekend the biggest one we've ever had, so I hope you will consider reserving the date on your calendar. □

Gene Bavis, Executive Director

genebavis@me.com

315/986-1474 (home office)

Finger Lakes Trail Conference Notice of Anticipated Vacancy Executive Director (Part time)

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference anticipates a vacancy for Executive Director (part time) in the summer of 2012. This leadership position will require a minimum of outstanding communication, financial and development skills, ability to oversee office functions and supervise paid staff and volunteers, and proven ability to work in a non-profit/volunteer work environment.

Interested candidates should fax (585) 658-2390 or e-mail (fltcoffice@frontiernet.net) a letter of interest, a résumé, 3 letters of recommendation, and a completed application. (Reference persons may e-mail or fax recommendations including contact information.)

Finger Lakes Trail Conference
Terry Meacham, Human Resource Committee
6111 Visitor Center Road
Mt. Morris, NY 14510

Equal Opportunity Employer

Notice of Anticipated Vacancies Volunteer Leadership Positions

- Treasurer—manage daily income/expenses with Finance Committee and Office staff assistance
- Vice President of Membership and Marketing—leadership role in all aspects of membership and marketing with the support of several committees
- Newsletter Editor—responsible for publishing the quarterly *Finger Lakes Trail News*

Appointments for all of these positions will be made at the reorganizational meeting on June 16. Contact Pat Monahan, FLTC president, (pmonahan@stny.rr.com) or nominating chairperson Phil Metzger (pmetzger@frontiernet.net) by April 1.

Preparing For Your Winter Adventure!

by NYS Forest Ranger Julie Harjung, WEMT, AEMT-CC,
Lead Instructor for Wilderness Medical Associates

I had the pleasure of meeting Julie this past May on an ADK canoeing trip on the Missouri River in Montana. Her competence and cheerful, calm demeanor made her an integral member of our group. She kindly agreed to share some of her experience as a forest ranger in her Trail Medicine article.

— Bob Michiel, Trail Medicine editor

I have been a Forest Ranger for over 15 years and have spent all of it in either the Catskills or the Adirondack Mountains. Rangers respond to just about every emergency you can think of and probably a few you haven't thought of. Many of the incidents are true accidents, a slip on the trail causing a broken leg, a dislocated elbow, a fall causing a concussion, etc. Accidents can and do happen all the time in the backcountry. As a responsible outdoor enthusiast you need to be prepared for the "what if" scenarios. That means following a few cardinal rules...

Don't go alone. If you do go alone, let someone responsible know where you are going and when to expect you back. I can't tell you how many calls have come into Dispatch with the call starting like this... "My friend, father, husband went hiking in the Adirondacks and hasn't returned yet". When asked where they intended to hike, where did they start from, when were they expected back, the person doesn't have a clue, and countless hours are spent searching parking areas for the individual's vehicle before we can even begin to confirm that there is a problem.

Do your homework. Get a map of the area and plan a realistic route. Bring a compass and know how to use it. If it's an extended trip it's good to plan a bail out point just in case things don't go as planned or the weather unexpectedly turns sour. One of the problems Rangers encounter repeatedly is when hikers overestimate their own ability or



the ability of someone in their party. Keep your group size small and plan your adventure with folks with a similar fitness and skill level. On winter hikes get an early start and anticipate the changing snow conditions as the temperature fluctuates throughout the day. A nice ski across the lake in the morning can become a slow exhausting slog when the snow warms up and repeatedly sticks to your skis or snowshoes.

Be prepared for the unexpected. Always bring a flashlight, extra clothing and extra food. An unexpected injury or broken ski binding has caused more than one outing to last until the early morning hours. Don't forget the spare batteries. Winter travel is a challenge because it's tough to carry all the items you want if you have to spend the night. At a minimum I always have a spare long underwear shirt, socks, balaclava and lightweight wool gloves in a quart size zip lock bag. That's my backup for emergency. We all know how important layers are. I prefer a wind block vest, or fleece, Gore-Tex coat, and a down sweater for winter travel. The down sweater I use when I stop moving.

I encourage everyone to carry at least a minimal first aid kit that includes hand warmers, band-aids and your blister treatment of choice. Some other standards in my first aid kit are a Sam splint, Coban (vetwrap), tape, 4

cravats, and 1-2 foil emergency blankets. If you are travelling in a group or on an extended trip adjust your first aid kit accordingly. In my backpack I always have 1-2 methods of starting a fire, some fire starter and a 30-gal. heavy garbage bag for an impromptu raincoat or vapor barrier. I also carry a small piece of ensolite to sit on, which will become invaluable if you are immobile from a broken leg and need to wait for rescue. A small piece of wire and some duct tape may help repair that broken binding.

Watch the weather. One of the most frustrating things for me as a Ranger is the people who push through on a trip just because they don't want to change their plans. Please keep in mind that the mountains will be there tomorrow or next week or next year. Abort or amend your trip when conditions are poor or you encounter significant problems. Turning back may save your life.

Hypothermia and frostbite are real probabilities if you are injured or lost during winter travel. A simple twisted knee can be life threatening. Please don't think that a cell phone is a substitute for being well prepared. Cell phones are helpful but do not always work and many times the battery will run out of juice long before you are able to get out of the woods. Rangers have had some success with pinging a cell phone to get GPS coordinates and texting to communicate when there is minimal service so bring them along in an inside pocket to keep them warm.

Everyone should carry something they can use or make into a temporary shelter. It may be a long time before rescuers are able to reach you. Keep in mind that a 2-3 mile carryout over rugged terrain may take as much as 10-12 hours. We generate heat through movement; when you can't move you will get cold very fast and you need to be prepared to survive. Break the contact with the ground, however you

(Continued on page 5)

Trail Medicine ...

(Continued from page 4)

can, and keep fueling your inner fire by drinking and eating. Practice starting a fire when there is no emergency. It may be a lifesaver in an emergency.

An individual immobilized by injury with no food or water is at a much greater risk for hypothermia and frostbite. Don't forget: we lose more fluid in the winter and we tend to carry less water and drink less frequently because we don't feel as thirsty. Monitor your urine color as a way to help you understand your hydration level. Dark urine or no urine indicates dehydration. Winter trekkers have spent many hours trying to perfect the best way to carry water in the winter to keep it from freezing. I personally prefer a Nalgene bottle with hot water in a thermal covering turned upside down in the bag to keep the top from freezing. On rescues, I bring a small thermos of non-caffeinated beverage for when we reach the injured or lost subject. Jell-O powder in hot water works well. New research shows that calories outweigh warmth when it comes to treatment of mild hypothermia. If you're travelling with a group one person should bring a small stove that works well in cold temperatures. Remember not all fuel functions the same in cold weather; test your equipment.

I love teaching Wilderness Medicine and have had the opportunity to put my training to work time and again on folks who have become lost or injured for whatever reason. Many times these incidents were preventable. Some were truly accidents. A nighttime rescue in the mountains puts everyone at risk. The most grueling rescue I have been on was a night in the mountains with temperatures at -20 and wind chill at -40. The young man sends me an email from time to time and I'm glad to see he has fully recovered and is still enjoying the woods. He unfortunately learned the hard way the true meaning of wilderness.

Be safe out there! □

Cortland County Series Comes to a Successful End

by Karen Serbonich, Cortland Series Coordinator

The 2011 Finger Lakes Trail series on 58.4 miles of the trail through Cortland County ended with a final hike and well attended picnic on September 17. Seventy-two registered hikers and nine guests, two children, and Kit, a local landowner, enjoyed roast beef, a breakfast vegetarian pizza, and drinks provided by the FLT hike series and accompanied by a bountiful spread of salads, desserts, and other dishes that the attendees furnished. There was a surprise birthday cake and singing of "Happy Birthday" for Ed Sidote, who had recently celebrated his 94th birthday. As I watched from the side the lively conversations and happy mood of the crowd, I was once again struck by the friendships and bonds created during the series.

There was a mad dash scramble to complete the missed hikes by many in the final weeks preceding the picnic. It was impressive. Seventy-eight people had completed the series by the end of October.

There were thirteen who completed their FLT end-to-end. Their ecstatic faces and pumped arms greeted us as they passed through the trekking poles decorated with helium balloons and celebration tape that were set up as their final finish line. Most have hiked together for years on the county hike series.

Waldo contributions for the series totaled \$609 towards trail maintenance. The generosity was humbling. An anonymous donor matched the final Waldo collection of \$318, bringing the total to more than \$900.

A couple announced their engagement on our final hike, and they plan to be married next May on the FLT.

We had great weather. Well, the April hike was a tad nasty. The trail was well maintained and gorgeous in spots. I have discovered Cortland County and loved what I saw. Hoxie Gorge, Kennedy, Taylor Valley, Baker School House, Cuyler Hill and Tuller Hill State Forests were unique and amazing.

Plans and hike plotting for next year's series in Tompkins County have already begun. Watch next year in March for the sign up time. It is a great opportunity to hike and make new friends while you explore and appreciate the wonderful blessing called the Finger Lakes Trail.

I finish with the following to be sung to "You do the Hokey Pokey". Created for my friends on the trail this year:

You hike down the trail
You hike up it too
Your legs are aching
And you have to make a Poo
You reach the sag wagon
And you head into the bush
That's what it's all about!

You hike through the woods
You hike through the dale
You step over roots
That are covering the trail
You start to trip and fall
And you hurt your little tail
That's what it's all about!

You hike in the sun,
You hike in the rain,
You hike through the mud
And you're thinking what a pain!
But don't you start complaining
unless your name is Pam,
That's what it's all about.

You're hiking on the road,
The view is really grand
You're feeling really blessed
Is that a llama close at hand?
The birds are all a-singing
And you're admiring the land.
That's what it's all about!

Refrain:

You're hiking on the trail
The FLT trail
You're hiking with your friends
That's what it's all about!

See you in 2012, if not sooner,

— Karen

Jessica Seem wins \$100 Wegmans Gift Card for the Passport Program

Congratulations to the 75 people who hiked the FLT Passport Program and submitted their rubbings to the FLT Service Center. We know that many more people have hiked several of the hikes, but have not as yet sent in their report. Each of these 75 hikers has received their Central Passport Patch and coupons from our sponsors: Wegmans, Eastern Mountain Sports, Monro Muffler-Brake, and Hickory Hill Family Camping Resort. As you may have read in Gene's column, we are planning Passports for the East and West sections of the FLT and already have patches ready to present. When someone completes the minimum number of hikes in all three areas, they will have a nice 3-part patch. Wegmans graciously offered a \$100 gift card for a hiker chosen at random from among those who completed at least ten of the hikes. Congratulations to Jessica Seem of Brooktondale. Coincidentally, when we went to the file, we found this very nice note from Jessica.

Hello,

I just wanted to thank everyone for putting together this booklet of hikes. We live near the FLT and have enjoyed hiking it for years, mostly in Tompkins and Cortland Counties. However, this program provided motivation for us to explore other parts of the trail that I doubt we would have taken the time to go to, otherwise. I have to say, every hike we completed from this booklet was memorable and worth the trip. My kids loved watching for the mailbox and doing their rubbings, too. (They're boys, ages 5 and 8.)

We are leaving two hikes undone. They are a good distance from our home, and we are starting to prepare for a move out of state, so I doubt we will get to them, but I'm sure they would have been great, too.

My appreciation for the FLT has only grown over this past year. I thank everyone who has helped put this program together and those who maintain the trail. We loved it!

— Jessica Seem
August 4, 2011



Right: Those who hiked the Passport Program and submitted their rubbings. The second column shows the number of hikes taken.

Passport Program Central Region Hikers

| | |
|--|----|
| Kim Brown, Shortsville | 12 |
| Sara A. Cafilisch, Avoca | 12 |
| Bernice Carnahan, Rochester | 12 |
| Michael Carnahan, Rochester | 12 |
| Joan Coveleskie, Sayre, PA | 12 |
| Alysha Hurd, Almond | 12 |
| Brandi Hurd, Almond | 12 |
| Kristina Hurd, Almond | 12 |
| Mike Schlicht, Snyder | 12 |
| John Schoonover, Sayre, PA | 12 |
| Steve Shymkiw, Canandaigua | 12 |
| Levi G. Smith, Avoca | 12 |
| Michelle Spencer, Penn Yan | 12 |
| Robert Spencer, Penn Yan | 12 |
| Bruce Thistle, Painted Post | 12 |
| Linda Thistle, Painted Post | 12 |
| Rita Jensen, Bath | 10 |
| Laura Johnson, Churchville | 10 |
| Josephine Kish, Painted Post | 10 |
| Ron, Holly, Erin, Chris & Noah Rockwell, Rochester | 10 |
| Carol Romeo, Elmira | 10 |
| Casey Seem, Brooktondale | 10 |
| Jessica Seem, Brooktondale | 10 |
| Donald Sheffer, Canandaigua | 10 |
| Linda Sheffer, Canandaigua | 10 |
| Amelia (2 1/2 yrs old) Sitar, Corning | 10 |
| David & Alex Sitar, Corning | 10 |
| Elliot Walsh, Brooktondale | 10 |
| Phillip Hubbard, Horseheads | 7 |
| Robin Hubbard, Horseheads | 7 |
| John Andersson, Ithaca | 6 |
| Linda Rosin, Elmira | 6 |
| John Carhart, Norwich | 5 |
| Dale Crumb, Owego | 5 |
| Attina Elia, Norwich | 5 |
| John Elia, Norwich | 5 |
| Lori Flaitz, Hornell | 5 |
| Kim Kramer, Arkport | 5 |
| Jeanne McAnany, Hornell | 5 |
| David Newlun, Horseheads | 5 |
| James Pomeroy, Canadea | 5 |
| Clare Sloat, Bergen | 5 |
| Brenda Werner, Freeville | 5 |
| Stu Allen, Rochester | 4 |
| Yu-Chin Allen, Rochester | 4 |
| Mary Brady, Canandaigua | 4 |
| Laurie Browning, Penfield | 4 |
| Lindsay Browning, Penfield | 4 |
| Astrid Bruekner, Ithaca | 4 |
| Stephen Bruekner, Ithaca | 4 |
| Bill Caudill, Cameron Mills | 4 |
| Helen Coleman, Corning | 4 |
| Tom Coleman, Corning | 4 |
| Larry Coon, Fairport | 4 |
| Christopher Crane, Victor | 4 |
| Evening Doyle, Ithaca | 4 |
| Joyce Ermer, Olean | 4 |
| Kathy Good, Horseheads | 4 |
| Paul Good, Horseheads | 4 |
| Kathy Hoffman, Liverpool | 4 |
| Sarah Hoffman, Herkimer | 4 |
| Nanda Hopenwasser, Churchville | 4 |
| Kirk House, Bath | 4 |
| Sharon Hunter, Marcellus | 4 |
| James Layman, Plainville | 4 |
| Louise Paguette Blujus, Liverpool | 4 |
| Jeff Patterson, Rochester | 4 |
| Anne Payne, Savona | 4 |
| Melanie Popick, Rochester | 4 |
| Beverly Proulx, Baldwinsville | 4 |
| Julian Riley, Ithaca | 4 |
| Cindy Schamel, Bradford | 4 |
| Harold Scharmberg, Dansville | 4 |
| Larry Telle, Rochester | 4 |
| Fred Van Orden, Canandaigua | 4 |

Finishing off the Art Kopp

by Lynda Rummel, Regional Trail Coordinator

The Hill with No Name

In the early 1970's, Art Kopp built the 28 miles of trail between the tiny hamlet of South Bradford and the Village of Watkins Glen (M13-M14). Art was the energetic president of the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, and the Chapter initially maintained the section. The section still bears Art's name, but since 2004, almost all of it has been rebuilt or relocated (only the stretch through the gorge in Watkins Glen State Park remains largely unchanged), and the Chapter has moved on to other activities. The Art Kopp section is now maintained by five individuals and a BSA Venture Crew.

When Art built the section, he put much of it on old roads, and while old roads had always been used by horses, horseback riding wasn't that popular at the time. This was before snowmobiles really became popular, too, so using existing trails didn't seem to pose that much of a problem; plus the goal was to get trail on the ground. But by the new millennium, all that had changed, and horses and snowmobiles and their heavily used trails radiated out from the Sugar Hill Recreational Area deep into Sugar Hill, Goundry Hill, and South Bradford State Forests.

The initial reason for relocating segments of Art's section was to eliminate those parts that were coincident with horse or snowmobile trail because horses and snowmobiles are not permitted on the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT)—or on the FLT, for that matter—and quite a few miles were about to be decertified unless we agreed to relocate. In addition, hikers were complaining about having to slog through the boot-sucking mud pits that the horses' hooves created. It was obvious why it was we who had to move—not only had the trails been horse trails first, but also, as the Forester in charge put it, "It's a lot easier to relocate a hiking trail than a horse trail."

With the relocating came the opportunity to see old trail for what it was—old trail in need of both rerouting and rebuilding. By 2010, the only major section still in need of serious repairs was, of course, the most isolated part of the whole Art Kopp trail—on M13, between Monterey/Sexton Hollow Rd. and Corbett Hollow Rd. Bill Menke, former Trail Foreman for the North Country Trail Association who inspected the trail in 2002 and identified those segments that could be decertified if not improved, called this section "too remote to describe"—oh such sweet words, indeed music to my ears! How marvelous to have a truly *remote* segment in the mostly rural Finger Lakes region! But 'remote' meant there would be logistics challenges related to getting materials and tools to the work sites and probably fewer volunteers than would come to a more accessible and exciting project. So I decided to re-do this segment over two years.

Thanks to Forest Ranger Bill Meehan (also one of the Art Kopp section sponsors), who scouted with me, parts of a lovely old horse trail that had been formally abandoned in 1984 become parts of the FLT in the early winter of 2010. Don McClimans mapped the existing trail and the abandoned horse trail, and I then created a "site map" for Forester Gretchen Cicora that showed all the sub-projects we intended to do.

We first proposed to use two lengths of the old horse trail, and Forester Cicora gave permission for the abandoned horse trail to be converted into a single-use footpath. Bill and I cleared, signed and blazed, and opened up the two lengths of abandoned horse trail to hikers in the fall of 2010. The first of these lengths goes over the top of The Hill with No Name between Monterey/Sexton Hollow Rd. and Corbett Hollow Rd.; the second stretch goes east from the base of the hillside for roughly 500 feet and eliminates a dark, miserable section of old trail.

Two years earlier, Wendy Stevenson and I had flagged some switchbacks on a particularly steep part of the hillside (the existing trail had grades of 30-45%), but Bill and I began anew and laid out five long, irregular switchback legs. We also identified a few places where sturdy puncheons might be needed and built a temporary relocation around an emerging side gully that had cut across the trail further down into the hollow. I knew, as well, that I wanted to use puncheons to "harden the surface" of a long stretch that was persistently wet. I put up preliminary flagging marking where puncheons might go and then left for the winter.

Corbett Hollow West

Returning three times in the spring, I measured and re-measured distances between roots and hummocks and finally concluded that the persistently wet stretch needed nearly 200 feet of puncheon. Then the problem of how to transport in the tools and materials had to be tackled.

Looking at an old (circa 1900) topographic map of the area, I had discovered that Corbett Hollow Rd. had once split into two branches, one of which had gone up the west side of the creek to a point quite close to the FLT. Aha! Maybe this west branch would be my supply route for transporting in materials and tools up Corbett Hollow using my utility vehicle (a Kawasaki Mule).

Applications for a Field Grant from the North Country Trail Association and a Challenge Cost Share from the National Park Service were approved, so I began to scout the supply route in earnest. I secured permission from the DEC to take my utility vehicle on the west branch of old Corbett Hollow Rd. from one DEC parcel to another and notified the landowners in between. No concerns or objections were raised, and one landowner even volunteered to work on the project. One dry day in early spring when measuring for

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puncheons, I scouted the creek crossing, which I found to be wide and low, i.e., easy for a utility vehicle, so I spent June and July planning how to pack the materials on my Mule, where the crew was going to stay, and how the crew was going to eat.

Then in August I returned to the west branch of old Corbett Hollow Rd. Everything was fine till I got to the creek crossing—wow, had it ever been changed! Must have been one torrential downpour that left one of the banks carved out and standing more than three feet above the creek bottom. No way was my Mule going to make it



back up that bank, and there was no alternative crossing spot!

Eventually it dawned on me that I could use long, curved aluminum loading ramps, if I could secure them to the bank and keep them a fixed distance apart; and my anxiety subsided slightly. A 2x12 on the bank secured with rebar, small lag screws through the lips of the ramps into the 2x12, and two 2x4's midway down, squared and secured to the ramps with 6" carriage bolts, did the job. Since the tires on my Mule were too wide for a single loading ramp, I set up two ramps side by side for each side set of tires, and planned to drive the vehicle right down the seam between them. Fortunately Bill came along so I didn't have to make the first run by myself; and he put some big stones at the base to hold the ends of the ramps. The contraption worked the first time, and it lasted for the nine trips it took me to ferry in all the tools and materials.

Ron Navik, Larry Newman, and Tom Babcock worked with John Burnham (L, in ditch) and Gus Phillips to build a puncheon out of 4x4's and carriage bolts on the northwest slope of Corbett Hollow (M13). This sturdy puncheon bridges a drainage cut deepened by this season's heavy rains. Photo by Lynda Rummel.

The Alley Cat Crew

Ferrying in wood on my utility vehicle means that 8-foot and longer boards have to be put through the cab. The Mule has been modified to have a cross piece out front of the cab that is the same height as a board behind the seats and a bar with legs that slide into slots on each side at the back. Most boards go on the passenger side but occasionally some go on the driver's side to balance the load. I have carried 12 10' 4x4's at a time this way, but this time I wanted to make the puncheons out of lighter material.

A puncheon consists of two or three "sills" (shorter pieces that sit across the trail) and two stringers (longer, wider planks that sit on the sills and run parallel with the trail). There are many versions of puncheons out on the trail, but this is the traditional design. I decided to use 4x4's for the sills. Although I knew 2x12's would be stiffer, I chose to use 2x10's for the stringers because the 2x10's, although flexing more, were a lot easier to carry and move around.

Many of the crew members arrived the afternoon of Sunday, August 28, to unpack at "the Scout House" (the Reginald Wood Memorial to Scouting), share pizza, and walk around Hammondsport, a charming Victorian



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A visitor

Far left: A beautifully benched switchback leg, Corbett Hollow West Rebuild Alley Cat project. Photo by Georgiana Binder.

Left: Larry Newman, Ron Navik, Tim Wilbur, Jo Taylor, and Gus Phillips at the end of a long day benching in trail. Photo by Georgiana Binder.

Article removed at author's request



Walking Through Time in New York: #28 in a series

Addison, an Unlikely Crossroads

by Irene Szabo

The new Crystal Hills Trail (FLT Map CH2) brings hikers right through Addison in southern Steuben County, not far above the Pennsylvania border a little west of Corning. Crystal Hills Trail hikers walk 2.5 miles through Addison, so a little history sniffing expedition is in order.

See Wade's Agway store along NY 417 at the east end of the village? Invariably our drives through country villages turn up a railroad next to every Agway, even if it's only an odd linear space cutting through backyards by now. This time, we discover as we walk across the highway to take orange-blazed Rte. 417 across the Canisteo River in downtown Addison, this railroad is still here and busy to boot. Yes, our trail is crossing yet again the old Erie main line from Binghamton to

Buffalo with this new branch, the same line we walk *across* northwest of Hornell (Map M9), just *above* near Swain (M9), walk *under* within Letchworth gorge (L2) where the railroad crosses high above, and *across* again on CT8 as the line approaches Buffalo, just south of Darien Lakes State Park. Oh, yes, and we walk across the ballast rocks of an abandoned Erie branch on M7 high above the Genesee River, AND cross the still-active tracks of the Erie route to Pennsylvania and points west immediately north of Allegany State Park on M2.

At least this time there are crossing gates and flashing lights to keep us safe. Never be fooled by seeming peace and quiet anywhere on this line, since a minimum half-dozen trains barrel through per day, sometimes at the rate

of several trains per hour. Since none of them stops any more, what was the original impetus to settle here? The Canisteo River is joined by Tuscarora Creek, neither of them particularly navigable except in spring, when there is often too much of a good thing. Hills rise steeply on all sides, so arable valley land is modest.

Yes, but those hills were covered with trees! The village was first settled before 1800, so lumbering was a natural, as long as logs could be transported to places where lumber was needed. Rochester to the north wasn't even a market yet; besides, one couldn't send logs up the Genesee River because the drop over the high waterfalls within what would become Letchworth Park would ruin them. But Baltimore was thriving, a ready market for wood. So crude river boats were made to shepherd a huge raft of logs

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What is now Pinnacle State Park started in 1969 as a private resort with a golf course and skiing. As the business dwindled, the property was given to the state for a park. On our orange-blazed walk south of the Canisteo River on Cleveland Drive, stop at the boat launch where the Tuscarora arrives. Look south at a crease in the hills; and imagine a ski trail winding back and forth down that crease, lit at night for a stunning sight. No more skiing now, but the 9-hole course remains, with great hilly sledding in winter. You'll soon climb to this fabulous overlook.



This wood-frame and stucco Erie station was built in 1852 and is still in use by a local business! The concrete platform on legs in the background once held a water tank for supplying the tenders behind coal-burning steam locomotives.

Addison ...

(Continued from page 10)

downstream every spring, along the Canisteo to the Chemung and then the Susquehanna, which dumped our river boaters into the Chesapeake Bay just north of Baltimore, where they sold their logs and even the lumber used for their "arks." Then they walked home.

The Erie RR didn't arrive until 1851, so for the first half of that century transportation was mostly along the Canisteo River. From the village, two scarred chutes were visible in the face of 600 foot high Pinnacle Hill for rolling that hilltop's logs down to the river. The local waterways also powered saw, plaster, and grist mills. In 1805 the Eagle Hotel was opened (still there, but now an antique store seldom open), and a post office came in 1804; by 1831 mail was brought into town from Painted Post twice weekly by horse coach.

In 1824 a dam was built across the Canisteo to power mills and render the normally shallow river navigable for several miles upstream. An elegant era along the "pond's" shores followed, when the wealthier citizens had summer cottages and ice was harvested for year-round refrigeration, until, that is, the flood of 1946 broke the dam. On our walk through the village's residential streets and charming grassy squares just north of Rte. 417, it's clear from the number of large churches and well-kept Victorian "painted ladies" that there was indeed wealth here at one time. On the 1857 county map in the Steuben County Historical Society office in Bath, we can see that the village had the previously mentioned mills, one bank, six dry goods stores, two carriage manufacturers, two coopers (barrel makers) and, of course, seven lawyers!

Once the Erie arrived, improved transportation favored new enterprises, a furniture factory, one for making window frames, more grain handling, and even John Shwarzenbach's brewery and restaurant opposite the depot. An egg-pickling plant shipped 1.2 million

eggs per year in the 1870's. A milk plant and ice house were built near the depot, and by 1893 a glass plant for manufacturing window and decorative panes employed 200 people, as did a boot and shoe factory that turned out 600 pairs per week. Both plants moved on to other towns, so now a modest "rush hour" consists primarily of employees from Corning Glass. One lumber mill remains active south of town.

In 1850 a plank road (yes, paved with boards) was built eleven miles south from Addison to the Cowanesque River valley in nearby Pennsylvania, where wagons hauling lumber and wheat were charged a toll for passage over this private road. This toll road continued in business until the 1880's when a new railroad was built to connect nearby Pennsylvania towns with the Erie Railroad at Addison. In 1882 several Addison businessmen created the Addison and Northern Pennsylvania railroad to come north from the Galeton, PA, area; these owners had a coal mine in that area so stood to profit from supplying coal to Addison. The little line also carried hemlock bark used in tanning hides, lumber of course, and even oil from Pennsylvania wells.

Remember the Buffalo and Susquehanna, a short-lived line from Pennsylvania to Buffalo we still walk on Map M6 west of the Genesee River? The B&S remained successful in Pennsylvania, mostly by gobbling up lumber mills and tanneries, thereby ruining our little Addison railroad's customer base, so it sold out to the B&S in 1898, giving the B&S its first connection to the Erie RR. In 1932 the Baltimore and Ohio bought the B&S remnants and the Buffalo Rochester and Pittsburgh, so owned several of our future trail crossings. The B&O held a triangle remnant; with Galeton as the apex below the border, lines ran NE to Addison and NW to Wellsville.

But even this business waned. In 1949 the last passenger came north to Addison, and finally in 1955 a short-line operator bought what he called the Wellsville Addison and Galeton (the

WAG) from the B&O for a song. Steam locomotives were quickly scrapped and the first diesels appeared. In 1958 the Sinclair oil refinery in Wellsville closed, and in 1959 a bridge needing repair gave the WAG an excuse to abandon the Addison branch north of Elkland, PA, from just below the border. In 1960 the tracks were torn up, and in 1972 violent floods from Hurricane Agnes finished off much of the rest of the WAG (and the Erie-Lackawanna, too, as it was known by then). Unfortunately Addison has had floods in 1889, 1912, 1935, 1946, and '72. Photographs of each show water partway up the first floors of homes, the school, and businesses, while garages and mobile homes were merely swept away.

In 1972 the tannery in Elkland burned down, a big customer for the remaining leg of the WAG, leaving only one other tannery along her route. By 1979, the WAG, "The Sole Leather Line," was closed. (The leather came from elsewhere, but it had been easier to ship hides than bulky hemlock bark.) Today it is very hard to find any evidence of the little railroad in Addison; her switching yard was just west of the still-standing Erie depot, a spot now covered over by a concrete plant, and Hurricane Agnes eliminated most other evidence, such as bridge abutments. A winter drive around the hills and valleys south of Addison gives views of disconnected level shelves of land against hillsides where the tracks once ran, and I even stumbled upon a stone abutment where the RR crossed above a dirt road. On both sides of that road mobile homes were plunked upon those rare and welcome level spots. Dare we hope that the eventual off-road route of the Crystal Hills Trail will touch the old line, now gone for over fifty years?

□

Sources:

The B. & S., Buffalo & Susquehanna Railway, by Paul Pietrak

Addison Past, by Bonny Moore and Mary Jane Gill

William P. Letchworth, "A Man for Others"

2011 Erv Markert Hike

by Doug Cunningham

The 2011 Erv Markert hikers consisted of a sparse, albeit vigorous and rain-gear layered, bunch of diehards. It was 45 degrees and raining as we set out on the "Reek Loop," part of the rim trail at Letchworth State Park. The group included Cate Concannon and Dave Matthews (the hike leaders), Chris Asbury, Doug Cunningham, Theresa and Jay Evans, and Carl Luger. When Cate pointed out that during Erv Markert's tenure as Trails Chairman, the FLT grew from 50 miles to 400 miles, the group responded with expressions of awe and amazement.

After some breath-taking views of the Middle and Upper Falls from the east rim of the gorge, we reached the Portageville railroad trestle just as a train above us crept across the 820-foot span of the gorge which separates Wyoming County from Livingston County. On just such a day in 1859 an industrialist stepped from another train that had stopped on the original wooden trestle and gazed down some 243 feet to the roaring Upper Falls and raised his eyes over the entire verdant and spectacular Genesee Valley Gorge. William Pryor Letchworth must have heard his true calling at that moment.

This event transformed William Letchworth's life. At the age of 47, he decided to replace making money with helping the less fortunate. At the dawn of the robber baron era, Letchworth traded the life of accruing wealth for one of conservationist, philanthropist, humanitarian, historian and social reformer. He purchased 200 acres of the upper valley and built his home, Glen Iris, at the rainbow falls (the Middle Falls). In fact, the word iris is a synonym for rainbow. He hired William Webster, the noted landscape architect, to design the property including trails, paths, spacious open lawns and a winding stone wall along the gorge edge to

protect visitors. It is said that at Glen Iris the earth runs to flowers and the air to rainbows. Letchworth must have then peered up at the Middle and Upper falls and thought, now what?

He then melded his love of nature with his life's calling, becoming a crusader for improving the lives of the down-trodden. He started with children of the poor. Guests invited to vacation at Glen Iris were probed for ways to help orphans and the children of the Buffalo slums. He would plant a tree with his guest and place the donor's name plate on it. Some of us on today's hike thought that might be an appropriate way to honor some of our FLTC leaders such as Erv Markert. Later, poor children swarmed over Glen Iris. Next Letchworth led the battle to improve the lives and living conditions of epileptics. He led the charge to remove epileptics from living with criminals in prisons and the mentally ill in insane asylums. Letchworth established Craig Colony in Groveland, Livingston County, so epileptics could live a life of dignity.

Letchworth became Commissioner of Charities of New York and used this position to reform housing and treatment of the mentally ill. He tirelessly traveled the state and beyond, conducting inspections of insane asylums to eliminate horrible sanitary conditions and brutal treatment of patients. He gave up vacations and refused any reimbursement for money he spent.

While doing all of this, for over a decade Letchworth fought private electrical power companies that desperately wanted to gain authorization from the State Legislature to build generator plants in the Genesee Valley Gorge. One proposal called for a dam to be constructed between the lower falls and Mt Morris, which would have drowned the gorge under a lake and the falls would have



Doug Cunningham

Hike leaders, Dave Matthews and Cate Concannon, were married on this bridge this summer.

disappeared. This was defeated. Not be deterred, the electric power lobby then proposed a dam upstream from the upper falls at Portageville because Portageville was some 500 feet above Mt Morris and provided maximum potential water power. Letchworth knew this too would destroy the entire Genesee Valley Gorge by turning it into an industrial pollution eye-sore like the Niagara River. When Letchworth read of the American Scenic and Historical Preservation Society, he decided this would be a final solution to saving the valley. In 1906 he deeded 1000 acres to the State of New York as a public park in permanent custody of the American Scenic and Historical Preservation Society.

So, as we enjoy and soak up the idyllic natural beauty of the "Grand Canyon of the East," we might want to reflect on the donor's true motivation for its preservation. Was it only for us to enjoy the park for its scenic value, or was it also intended to inspire us to do for others? As we take so much pleasure from here, what might we do for others as a thank you to "the man for others?" Is it possible that William P. Letchworth, by

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Letchworth ...

(Continued from page 12)

bequeathing this spectacular place to the public, is yet prodding us to do for others? Taking enjoyment from a hike in Letchworth Park will last a while; using it as motivation to help someone less fortunate will endure a lifetime.

How might we use viewing the rainbow over the Middle Falls or an idea gleaned from Inspiration Point or a look upstream from the Pedestrian Bridge to “come alive” for others? In fact Cate Concannon and Dave Matthews, our hike leaders, were married on the gorge Pedestrian Bridge this summer and have already used it as inspiration to share with others by leading this hike. Watching them re-enact their kiss today was cool.

The next time you experience the thrill of Letchworth State Park, here's

Wally Wood Nominations Requested – Urgent!

Deadline: December 31, 2011

The Wallace D. Wood Distinguished Service Award is the highest annual honor given by the FLTC to a volunteer who has contributed extraordinary quality and quantity to the ongoing health of the trail system and its organization. Pairs of people who have worked miracles together have also received this award. Nominations go to Irene Szabo, Chair Recognitions Committee, treeweenie@aol.com, 6939 Creek Rd, Mt. Morris, NY 14510, 585/658-4321, with a copy to the FLTC Service Center, FLTCoffice@frontiernet.net, 6111 Visitor Center Road, Mt. Morris, NY 14510.

hoping it leads you to become “A Man for Others” as Erv Markert must have been and that William P. Letchworth exemplified.

*Bright summer dream of white
cascade,
Of lake, and wood, and river!
The vision from the eye may fade,
The heart keeps it forever.
—James N. Johnston*



SUNY Geneseo Students Install Puncheon Bridging by Ron Navik

Fifteen freshman SUNY Geneseo students worked on the FLT over the Labor Day Weekend as part of their freshman orientation community service project. The program included a backpacking experience managed by the outfitter Pack, Paddle and Ski. The group manually carried the lumber up to two miles and installed over 100 feet of puncheon bridging and several steps on the Robinson Loops trail on Map M8. Hikers and their boots will appreciate the major improvements through several very muddy areas. When it began to rain the group continued working to complete the project so others will have the opportunity to stay dry. They all went back to school tired, wet and dirty, but with a real feeling of accomplishment.

Ron Navik



SUNY Geneseo students built over 100 feet of puncheon bridging on the FLT as part of their freshman orientation community service.

by Terry R. McConnell, September 23, 2011

It's funny how the isolation and natural beauty of remote sections of the trail can sometimes bring the deeper emotions a little closer to the surface. I was hiking the Hammond Hill section of the Finger Lakes Trail on a grey, brisk fall day. I had been down to the village of Marathon to watch my daughter run in a cross country meet, and decided to take advantage of the opportunity to sample a section of trail that was new to me.

I parked on the shoulder of Purvis Road and planned to hike some seven miles south to a point where the trail is closed for hunting. The map showed no obvious or natural alternate return route, so I figured I'd just backtrack along the same section. No harm in seeing a completely new area twice; and, anyway, the terrain often looks quite different when viewed from the opposite direction.

The hike begins with a relentless half mile climb up a seasonal road that quickly degenerates into a deeply rutted lane impassable with anything but four wheel drive. An official looking sign placed by the town of Dryden notes that this section of the road has been "abandoned", a curiously indirect way of telling those driving the family sedan that they ought to turn back now. A hundred yards or so further on one finds a "for sale" sign, hopefully but incongruously placed here by some real estate agent. Who on

earth, other than a few hikers and deer hunters, is ever going to see it?

I missed the trailhead and wandered perhaps a quarter mile further along a snowmobile trail before realizing that I hadn't seen a white blaze mark for too long. I guess I had been expecting to find the familiar green and yellow sign where the trail enters the woods, but none has been placed here. Not wanting darkness to catch me on an unfamiliar section of trail, I decided to revise the plan a bit. I would head for the Kimmie Lean-to instead, cutting perhaps a mile from the original route.

The first section of trail follows some plush DEC trails and brings you, after about a half mile, to the top of 2014 foot Hammond Hill where there is a very impressive microwave tower. It stands hundreds of feet tall above a low building that probably houses sensitive equipment and provides shelter for the occasional maintenance people. How do they get there, I wonder? Other than being dropped in by helicopter, the only viable route appears to be the Finger Lakes Trail.

I got to my destination at about 3pm and decided to rest and have a power bar. I got out my ipod and listened to one of my favorites—the great Bach Partita in D minor, performed on guitar by Julian Bream. It was written, I recalled, in a period of deep grief following the untimely death of the

composer's infant daughter. Built around variations on a short, ineffably sad, series of minor chords, the piece visits the major key only in a contrasting middle section that I always imagine represents a reverie on what might have been possible in a life cut off too soon. The piece returns to the original minor key, and ends on a single, stark and unaccompanied tonic note. This, I always imagine, represents the final resolution of grief into a kind of acceptance.

As I listened to the music, my eye idly wandered around the lean-to and fixed on a memorial plaque nailed to the wall. The name "Kimmie", I had assumed, was the surname of some old-time Finger Lakes Trail benefactor, officer, or trail worker. How wrong that assumption was! Kimmie, as I learned from the plaque, was the pet name of one Kimberly Vandam, 1989-1991. The lean-to had been constructed "by her friends", in the year following her death, in the hope that it might help others enjoy the trail as much as she, in her own brief life, had done.

A proud father myself, I reflected on how Kimmie's dad must have felt, and wept. It was some miles into the return trip before I could see the way ahead clearly. □

In gratitude for so many kind wishes...

Thanks to the numerous FLT members who sent cards (and they aren't 75 cents anymore!) or visited while I was sick for months this summer and fall. What should have been a simple fix for an intestinal blockage managed to bring up every possible complication, keeping me in bed until my arms and legs were wussy little sticks and I'd lost over 50 lbs. It was heartwarming to see how many people cared! Now I'm slowly getting back in shape, and plan on getting back to trail work by March!

See you all at the 50th.

Irene Szabo

Our sincere thanks for gifts in honor of:

*Howard & Carole Camp
Success on END to
END...Congratulations!*

from

Hugh Mitchell

*Ken & Margaret Reek
In appreciation of help as
Car Spotters*

from

John Mangus

Wildflowers along the Trail, #36: An aster by any other name...

RWW Taylor

As fall arrives again in our part of the world, mingled sprays of white and purple asters begin to show themselves among the displays of goldenrod that have dominated the late-summer wildflower show across our fields, roadsides and woodlands. Both of these two groups of plants pose challenges to the individual who wants to go beyond this sweeping observation, though, as both include a wide range of distinguishable species, taking up many sometimes-confusing pages in the standard wildflower guides.

Matching a plant in front of you against the descriptions in a guidebook is always a challenge, of course, due to natural variations occurring in hue and growth habit from specimen to specimen, patch to patch, stand to stand of actual blooms encountered in the field. Also, some of the described species are known to interbreed to produce specimens with intermediate characteristics. Descending to the level of technical detail necessary to confidently assign a species identification to each flower one meets along the trail—taking into account the habitat and time of year, noting the coloration, size, leaf structure and arrangement, the flowering structure, and so on—is not always possible in the field, particularly when miles of inviting trails beckon ahead. Often enough it is necessary to just note “white aster” or “goldenrod species” and move on.

Professional botanists, in order to make a positive identification, may in particular cases collect specimens that can be matched against standard specimens in herbariums, though the art of photography has advanced enough nowadays to usually make such a step unnecessary. But the very idea of collecting physical observations as a basis for classifying nature’s variety is losing ground to more subtle approaches enabled by modern science. In particular, genetic analyses are playing an ever-larger role in establishing the underlying relationships connecting the magnificent range of variety displayed by the natural world.

In recent decades genetic typing studies have succeeded in overthrowing a number of long-established botanical

classifications, sometimes disclosing unexpected connections. In particular, it surprisingly turns out that the goldenrods and the asters, seemingly so distinct, are actually very closely related plants, with species shading right along from one grouping into the other. In the process of establishing this finding, the different species making up the traditional genera *Solidago* (goldenrods) and *Aster* (asters) have recently been assembled into a number of new genera that are seen as better reflecting the actual relationships between these species.

Under this new classification scheme, the goldenrods (almost exclusively a North American plant) retain the genus name *Solidago*, but a group of species including what used to be called lance-leaved goldenrod (*S. graminifolia*) are now moved into a new genus *Euthamia*, and are now called “goldentops”. Several more goldenrod species have been moved into a different genus, *Oligoneuron*, along (surprisingly) with a species that used to be classified as an aster—upland white aster, *Aster ptarmicoides*—now renamed prairie goldenrod.

A more ambitious renaming scheme was necessary for the asters as a group, since the old genus *Aster* included nearly 600 very diverse species. The genus name *Aster* is retained for about 180 of these, all of them native to the Old World, but all of the North American species have been moved into one or another of several new

genera. It turns out that a great many of the common “asters” that we are familiar with in upstate New York—old friends that we see every autumn—are now classified into the genus *Symphyotrichum*. Since this name is grammatically neutral, the associated species names need to be modified to match: thus the arrow-leaved aster that is frequently spotted in bloom along trailsides changes from *A. saggitifolius* to *S. saggitifolium*, with a net gain of three syllables.

Other former *Aster* species have been moved into other genera: *Eurybia* (the common white wood aster, *A. divaricatus*, is now *E. divaricata*), *Doellingeria* (the flat-topped aster often seen in damp locations, *A. umbellatus*, is now *D. umbellata*), and further species now belong to the genera *Oclemena* and *Ionactis*. Looks like it may be a bit confusing for a while, doesn’t it?

Actually, botanists have had to live with this sort of name-shuffling for a long time—a fact you may be aware of if you have looked in any detail into two or more different wildflower field guides—and have gotten by through the idea of botanical synonyms. Although this current reclassification is a rather big bite to swallow, future authors will be able to keep this straight, and those of us who may keep our own private notes can take our time getting used to the new system. Or we can just keep on using the old names if we like, and concentrate on enjoying the flowers! □



How to Build a Lean-to

by Ken Reek, with photos by Bob Collins and Ken Reek

If you have hiked any appreciable distance on the Finger Lakes Trail, you have probably seen a lean-to, and you may have wondered who built it. That's what my wife and I wondered when, on our first backpacking trip, we met an Alley Cat crew who had just finished building a lean-to in Allegany State Park. That experience got us interested in the FLT and over the years I have helped build seven lean-tos (Rogers Hill, Foxfire, Shindagin, Buck Settlement, Tamarack, Getter Hill, and Hickory Hollow) on Alley Cat crews.

Building a lean-to is hard work, but great fun. And the satisfaction you get from helping build a shelter that will be there for 50 years or more is hard to describe. What I can describe is how we build them, with photos from the Hickory Hill lean-to that was constructed this past October.

The first step is selecting the site. For our newest lean-to, Randy Lehman (owner of Hickory Hill Family Campground in Bath) provided a beautiful site on the hill behind the campground. The site has a great view and is immediately adjacent to the trail. We don't usually build shelters on private land, but Randy generously gave us a permanent easement to ensure that the trail will always be there (thanks again, Randy!).

Then we dig a trench to provide a level surface for the base, which is constructed out of 6x6 pressure treated lumber. A sheet of plastic is used beneath the floor as a vapor barrier, and the dirt beneath this plastic is mounded in the center to prevent mosquito breeding puddles from forming. The floor is 2x10 pressure treated lumber.



The walls are built from logs that have been cut on two sides to a thickness of about 8". For the first six courses, the back and side walls interlock with each other in notches that we cut with a chainsaw. In the first course, the rear wall is notched to accept the side walls, and on the second course the side walls are notched to accept the rear wall. Courses three through six alternate in the same manner, giving the building a lot of strength and preventing the walls from falling away from one another under a heavy

snow load. Each course of logs is screwed into the logs below, with a layer of foam between them to help seal out drafts.



While the first six courses are being built, another crew works on courses 9-12 on the side walls. This work is trickier for two reasons. First, these logs are notched to hold the purlins (6x6 timbers that go from side to side and support the rafters—you know, those things you crack your head on when you stand up too quickly), and the notches have to be positioned just right for the roof geometry to be correct. Second, the front and rear of these logs are cut parallel to the angle of the roof. This is achieved by nailing 2x4 guides atop the purlins and using a chainsaw to cut the logs along the guides. I can say from experience that this is a slow and tiring task, even with a chainsaw.



When the walls are completed, rafters are notched to sit on the purlins and the roof deck is nailed to them.



The roof is made of overlapping metal panels that are screwed to the roof deck. This is faster and easier to install than shingles, and lasts longer as well. We then install a fire ring, build benches out of any leftover logs, then clean up the site and haul out any construction debris.

We add some amenities to our shelters that we hope hikers find useful. There are shelves to store gear (and the trail register), and lots of pegs to hang packs, wet clothes, and gear. We also round over the bottom corners of the purlins—when you inevitably whack your head on one, it doesn't hurt as much. We also round over the front edge of the floor so that it is more comfortable to sit on.

What tools did we use? Chainsaws are very useful, but we also use a generator to power a circular saw, power planer, router, reciprocating saw, portable bandsaw, and numerous battery chargers for portable drills, impact drivers, and saws. We also use a lot of hand tools such as squares, chisels, hammers, two-man log carriers, picks, shovels, etc.

How long does all of this work take? The Foxfire lean-to took six days to construct, but five days is more typical. However, Matt Branneman, a professional builder, joined our crew on the Tamarack lean-to last year. The difference between a bunch of bumblin' amateurs (us) and a professional (Matt) quickly became apparent when we completed the Hickory Hill lean-to in under three days! We saved at least a half day on this project because the materials were already on site, but the rest of the improvement was directly due to Matt's expertise.

Here is a summary of our day-by-day progress at Hickory Hill:

Day One: Dig and level trench for the base; construct base and floor; round over front edge of floor; build first four courses of walls. Start work on rafters.



Day Two: Finish back and side walls, including sloping cuts on side walls; install purlins and rafters. Start building benches.



Day Three: Finish sloping cuts on side walls; install roof deck and roof; finish benches; install fire ring; cut leftover log scraps for firewood; clean up the site.



The crew in this photo include L-R front: Dave Potzler, Gus Phillips, Dave Drum (project manager), Matt Branneman, Margaret Reek, Ken Reek, Bob Kremens, John Burnham, Ron Navik. L-R rear: Bob Emerson, Barb Navik, Pete Nye, Gary Haff, Bob Collins.

This lean-to weighs about five tons—that means that during its construction the crew carried five tons of material. No wonder we were all tired at the end of each day!

Does this sound like fun to you? If so, keep your eye on the *FLT News* or the FLTC website (www.fingerlakestrail.org) for information on future Alley Cat crews. We also do trail improvement projects, build bridges, and other fun projects. If you join a crew you will meet a lot of interesting people with similar interests, and you may come back year after year, just like I did. □



A visitor



SM

Steve Catherman
Vice President of
Trail Maintenance

Trail Topics

Regional Trail Coordinator and Trail Sponsor News (and Opportunities!)

Brent Archer from Corning is the new sponsor of 3.6 miles of the Bristol Hills Trail on Map B3 between Access Point 18 at County Route 13 and Access Point 19 at the junction with the main trail near Mitchellsville in Steuben County. Brent takes over this section of trail that includes the beautiful Lake David and a brand new ladder-bridge from **Irene Szabo**, who is gradually, and grudgingly, giving up some of her miles of immaculately maintained trail. Welcome aboard Brent. Now that we are neighboring sponsors, I hope to see you on the trail, as I maintain the section of main trail adjacent to the Bristol Hills terminus.

Staying with the Bristol Hills Trail for a moment, **we are currently in need of two sponsors** for two different sections of this trail. The first is a 4 mile piece of trail on Map B2 between Access Point 12 at County Route 75 and Ford Road near Prattsburgh in Steuben County. The Regional Trail Coordinators for this area and the current sponsors, **Tom and Donna Noteware** from Hammondsport, are lightening their load by making this section of trail available to a new maintainer.

The second section of trail is the 5.7 mile orange-blazed route through High Tor Wildlife Management Area on Map B1 between Access Point 5 at State Route 245 near Naples in Ontario County and Access Point 7 at Brink Hill Road in Yates County. Trail Sponsor **Gary Haff** has decided to give up this trail to concentrate his efforts on his recent off-road reroute, and subsequent increased trail maintenance, along County Route 15 near Bath. Although 5.7 miles is a rather long section of trail to manage, 0.6 miles of it is coincident with the blue-blazed trail through High Tor which is currently being maintained by **Tim and Nancey Wilbur** from Shortsville.

Moving eastward along the trail into Chenango County, we have a new Regional Trail Coordinator for the area beginning on State Route 206 in Bainbridge on Map M26 and ending at County Route 47 at the northern tip of the Cannonsville Reservoir in Delaware County on Map M27. Finger Lakes Trail End-to-End and Trail Sponsor **Don Sutherland** has graciously agreed to assume this responsibility from **Mike Gebhard** who wanted a break, but didn't want to stop managing trail completely. Mike, in

How to Contact Trail Management

Steve Catherman, Vice President of Trail Maintenance
7399 CR 89
Bath, NY 14810
stevec@roadrunner.com
607/569-3453

Lynda Rummel, Vice President of Trail Quality
968 Esperanza Drive
Keuka Park, NY 14478
ljrassoc@roadrunner.com
315/536-9484
315/679-2906 (Jan-Mar)

Ron Navik, Vice President Trail Preservation
27 Edenfield Rd.
Penfield, NY 14526
ron.navik@frontiernet.net
585/377-1812

Quinn Wright, Director of Crews and Construction
3 Roberts Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14206-3031
wrightquinn@hotmail.com
H 716/826-1939, C 716/818-6990, Fax 716/826-1786

Joe Dabes, Director of Trail Inventory and Mapping
kabjnd@msn.com
607/844-3872 (Apr. 20 - Oct. 20)
352/861-0563 (Oct. 20 - Apr. 20)

turn, agreed to adopt the section of trail recently made available through the retirements of **Dale Fox** and **Dennis Uhlig**. This roughly 2 mile section of trail begins at the 'Summit' parking area along Dunbar Road on Map M27, passes the Cold Spring Lean-to, and ends at State Route 8 south of Masonville. Many thanks to Don, Mike, Dale and Dennis for their past and anticipated future contributions to the trail.

"Now if we could only find a sponsor for the Mary Smith Trail over Mary Smith Hill, probably one of the toughest hikes in our trail system, but one with the reward of yet another exceptional view at the top. Sign up here!" was my sales pitch in the 2011 summer edition of the FLT News, and lo and behold it must have worked! We finally have new sponsors for this 3.2 mile section of trail in the Catskills on Map M30 in Delaware County. Triple Cities Hiking Club Trail Chairs **Roy and Laurie Dando** from Endwell accepted this challenge and by doing so, opened up a section of trail that has been without a sponsor for several years now and been quite literally a thorn in our side. Considering that Roy is also our FLTC Secretary, this is a huge commitment. Thank you Roy and Laurie for the dedication of your time, skills and efforts to our trail!

Trail Topics, continued...

Of course with the good news, we have to accept some bad. The section of trail directly adjacent to Roy and Laurie's on Map M30 is **currently unattended and up for adoption**. Beginning at State Route 206 south of the Pepacton Reservoir, the blue-blazed Campbell Mountain Trail extends 4 miles up and over Brock Mountain to the Pelnor Hollow Trail. From there, this 1.2 mile similarly blue-blazed trail climbs up to Split Rock Lookout with exceptional views before coming to a junction with the Mary Smith Trail. The final leg is 1.1 miles along this red-blazed trail dropping down to Holiday and Berry Brook Road where Roy and Laurie's section begins. So if you're interested in this trail or either of the two sections of the Bristol Hills Trail mentioned above, please contact us. □



TQ

Lynda Rummel
Vice President of
Trail Quality

Oops

A while ago I wrote about rebuilding 10 bridges between Elmboise Rd. (CR 77) and Bean Station Rd. in Steuben County near Prattsburg (FLT map B3). I served as "Clerk of the Works" on that project and helped recruit a crew, organize the logistics, provide on-site training and advice when needed, and assure that the bridges were built to acceptable standards. We did earn quite a few accolades from trail users, but in all fairness, we boasted, and I guess we bragged a bit too much.

Tom and Donna Noteware, the Regional Trail Coordinators for the Bristol Hills Branch, told me that the muck lands flooded, and we crew members saw signs of flooding over the lands we were working on, but I, at least, had a big "failure of imagination"—I simply could not imagine that the creeks that run through such seemingly level lands could flood enough to take out the bridges that we set on sills on the high creek banks. To top it off, despite finding many lengths of cable buried in the muck at several bridge sites, we actually *wondered* what the cable had been used for.

Thus it came as a huge shock when Donna told me that three bridges, including one that was built on telephone poles, had been knocked off their foundations. Fortunately, none had been washed away, but the biggest bridge, whose telephone pole stringers sit on banks at least eight feet above the creek bottom, had been knocked off its sills on

both sides of the creek; and we found evidence that the water had been *at least a foot* over the top of the bank.

What had we not done that we should have done? We had affixed only the sills to the ground with rebar; we had not put rebar through the poles and then through the sills and into ground. Why? Because we did not have drill bits long enough to go through all that material, we did not have a battery powered drill hefty enough to power such long bits if we'd had them, and the suggestion that we do this with a hand auger, which we didn't have anyway, was not particularly well received.

What else? We didn't tether the bridges with cable, as we now understood previous bridge builders had done. Instead, we hauled out and threw away most of that cable!

So what's the situation now? On September 1, a group from the Corbett Hollow West Rebuild Alley Cat crew including Ron Navik, Gus Phillips, Jo Taylor, John Burnham, Georgie Binder, Mark Musso (the section sponsor), and me, repositioned the bridges in less than two and a half hours. The two smaller bridges were lifted back in place quickly, with just "brute strength." The telephone pole bridge required the use of the Grip Hoist, a device roughly analogous to a "come along" that gets attached to a tree with a wide "tree saver" strap that's somewhat like a towing strap. A similar strap had to be attached to the poles so they could be pulled. While the Grip Hoist operator inched the poles toward the sills, others used cut saplings to pry the pole ends up and onto the sills. Mid-September, Dave Potzler tethered the bridges with 3/8 inch cable. Taking this lesson to heart, we also asked Dave to tether the two bridges across Birdseye Hollow Creek (M13), just in case. It took him just under four hours to leash five bridges. Now we need to figure out how to put rebar through the ends of the poles or perhaps spike them to the sills.

(Continued on page 20)



Georgiana Binder

Flash flooding knocked one of the big telephone pole bridges off sills at both ends. Only the spindly sapling at right prevented the bridge from being turned and possibly washed off the bank.

Trail Topics, continued...

The goal always is to build trail that lasts and leave the rebuilding to the *next* generations. The trail quality lessons from this are many: Especially heavy rains can flash-flood creeks and drainages in all sorts of geography; do imagine the banks overflowing and stake down and tether your bridges, else you'll be trying to dig them out of the debris downstream. And remember, Mother Nature abhors hubris.

□



cc

Quinn Wright
Director of Crews
and Construction

2011 Alley Cat Final Report

In my short tenure (3 years) as Director of Crews and Construction, I conclude the 2011 major project season believing that the FLTC volunteers must be super-human. First, when I took on this task I was led to believe that Howard Beye would schedule three, perhaps four, major tasks per season. Second, I was further led to believe that Howard, and now I, would have to be at each project. Third, the crews were typically smaller in size than I have experienced. Fourth, a major task required about five consecutive days of work dedicated only to that task. As each season has progressed, each of these preliminary understandings has been challenged.

2011 has seen seven major projects. Four lean-to's will have been built by the end of October. Three trail improvement projects were completed that involved building bridges, building puncheons, and re-constructing trail to meet current trail standards. In addition, unplanned

trail re-construction work was accomplished during many of these projects. How was it possible to have so much done when I could only be personally involved on a limited basis? Well, the simple and only answer is that the FLTC is populated with remarkably talented people who can plan, supervise, and work on a wide range of projects!

I still teach 7th and 8th grade students and I still want some personal time for vacations, so it is not possible to squeeze all of the work into a work window of July and August. As a result, I have been fortunate to have uncovered a large cadre of FLTC people who have the skills to plan and supervise projects. This year, Roy and Laurie Dando, Rob Hughes, and Matt Branneman handled the new Getter Hill lean-to in the Beales Pond State Forest over three work periods in May and June. Were it not for the fact that this project happened on two weekends and after school was over I could not have been involved. This is the only project that I was at almost every day. Dave Potzler and Mike Schlicht planned and then supervised the Hunters Creek puncheon project during early June for which I could help only on the weekend. Steve Catherman and Gerry Benedict planned and built some bridges over Birdseye Creek. (I wasn't there at all.) Lynda Rummel planned and supervised trail reconstruction near West Corbett Hollow—see Lynda's report in this issue. (I wasn't there at all.) David Drum, Matt Branneman, and Ken Reek planned and constructed the new lean-to on Hickory Hill—see Ken's report in this issue. (I wasn't there at all.) In addition to these Alley Cat projects there were other major projects that could have been Alley Cat projects, but they were Eagle Scout projects. A new lean-to, built using Rob Hughes' specifications and under the guidance of the FLTC's Tom and Donna Noteware will be completed by the end of October; it has already had overnight campers. The lean-to is a magnificent structure. (Tom and Donna will write an article for the next issue.) The Outback Inn lean-to has been replaced with a new lean-to designed by Matt Branneman and constructed under the guidance of Lynda Rummel. This is another beautiful structure that should be completed by the end of October and it too has had overnight guests

(Continued on page 21)

Hickory Hill Alley Cat Honor Roll

There was not room on the pages with Ken Reek's article (pages 16 and 17) to list the MANY people who contributed to this project's success, so here they are:

Chandi Bhowmik, Matt Branneman Sr., Gary Brouse, John Burnham, Steve Catherman, Bob Collins, Brian DeVaul, Dave Drum, Nancy Jo Drum, Bob Emerson, Donna Flood, Matt Garrison, Gary Haff, Keith House, Mahlon Hurst, Bob Kremens, Randy Lehman, Nathan McCorkle, Barb Navik, Ron Navik, Pete Nye, Ben Petryszak, Gus Phillips, Dave Potzler, Ken Reek, Margaret Reek, Lynda Rummel, Nathan Schiffer, Mike TenKate, Janet Thigpen, Chris Tompkins-Tinch, Robert Wagner, Jacqui Wensich

Trail Topics, continued...

already. Other major work that has been accomplished during 2011:

1. Pat Monahan's ongoing efforts to complete the Crystal Hills Trail.
2. Lynda Rummel planned and supervised the tree harvesting project that will provide logs for next year's lean-to on the Crystal Hills branch trail and perhaps another two lean-to's.
3. Dave Potzler, Ben Petryszak, and landowner John Bathrick harvested trees from their properties, and John is milling the logs for the lean-to that will be constructed next year on John's property through which the Conservation Trail passes.

Valid or not, my expectations were that during the "Alley Cat Season" about forty or fifty people might be involved in accomplishing the Alley Cat projects. A simple review of the number of volunteers, the hours they worked, and the miles they traveled will provide ready evidence of how far from reality were my expectations.

| | Number of Volunteers | Hours Worked | Miles Traveled |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2009 | 55 | 1,660 | 16,507 |
| 2010 | 78 | 2,836 | 23,374 |
| 2011 | 114 | 3,829 | 26,744 |

These crews have become so large that every project manager has come up with a list of trail maintenance projects nearby so that every person's desire to contribute is fulfilled. The work always seems to happen faster than we expected and we want to keep people busy over the length of the time that they have committed. Lynda Rummel, who must sleep very little, was available once again to supervise and train for trail maintenance projects near Getter Hill, Birdseye Hollow, and Hickory Hill.

At the risk of being repetitive, think how much we can get done when we set our minds, bodies and spirits to these tasks. The FLTC is populated with an amazing group of people! It has been my privilege to have worked with you on these projects and I hope to see many of you on the trail and, if I am lucky, on future projects.

Special recognition should be given to the eight people who worked more than ten days: Georgianna Binder (12 days), John Burnham (15 days), Roy & Laurie Dando (12 days each), Rob Hughes (12 days), Ben Petryszak (22 days), Gus Phillips (17 days), Dave Potzler (17 days), and Lynda Rummel (38 days). Astonishingly, these days are in addition to their other times that are spent maintaining trail on non-project efforts. Your commitment to the FLTC is inspiring.

At this point, next year's project list will not be as ambitious in scope. As mentioned above, we have two lean-

tos to build (on the Conservation Trail and on the Crystal Hills Trail.) We also have three projects in the much-ignored Catskills. Because of the severe post-hurricane storm damage in the east end of the state there are scores of fallen trees to remove from the trail. Roy Dando will be trying to put together a chainsaw crew for that project. Rick Roberts has identified several sections of trail that are over-run with thorns and thistles and a large crew of volunteers will be needed to rehabilitate these sections of the trail. Rick Roberts expects to complete arrangements (final commitments from the landowner are being negotiated) that will move five miles of road-walk off the road; that will require a trail construction crew. We will need to maintain the level of volunteer participation if we are to accomplish these projects successfully. I encourage and welcome anyone to volunteer to be the project manager or the construction manager for these projects. How wonderful it would be if I had to choose from many or if I had to name co-managers for these very important tasks. How wonderful it would be if Lynda Rummel could get some rest and if she had some trail construction managers whose help we could enlist to supervise these trail projects. Complete details about the 2012 Alley Cat projects will be available in the next issue of the *FLT News*. □



J

Joe Dabes

**Director of Trail
Inventory and
Mapping**

Interactive Map on Our Website

This is the big news! Please see the article about our interactive map by Dave Drum on page 2.

Trailhead Parking Coordinates

You can now download a POI (Points of Interest) file for all FLT trailheads where parking exists, that can be easily loaded into your Garmin Nuvi automotive GPS unit. This allows you to get turn-by-turn directions to parking trailheads, without having to type in the coordinates. From our website, this is how you get to the instructions and files: Home > Go Hiking > Hiking the FLT > Finding the Trail, and then scroll to the bottom to find information on the files to download.

Once downloaded into your Garmin Nuvi find the parking areas with: Where to? > Extras > Custom POIs. The following then appear: All Categories, FLT B1, FLT B2, etc. Best to choose the map you want, and then touch a parking area to get more info.

Trail Topics, continued...

For those of you without Garmin Nuvi units, there is a GPX file that you may find useful with your automotive GPS unit at the webpage mentioned above. If you figure out how to use that info with your non-Garmin unit, please let us know so that we can include this on this webpage for others. Contact me at kabjnd@msn.com.

Inventory of Trail Facilities

I've completed inventorying structural facilities on the branch trails this summer, with help from Dave Drum on the Bristol Hills Trail last fall. Main trail facilities were inventoried last year. All these will be made available to regional trail coordinators, trail chairs, and sponsors, both on a Panoramio website and on CDs.

Directions for Using FLT GPS Data with Newer Garmin GPS Units

I have (once again, as Garmin BaseCamp changes rapidly) rewritten the directions for using our FLT GPS track and waypoint data with the latest generation of Garmin "field" GPS units: Oregon, Dakota, Montana, GPSMap 62, and GPSMap 78. These work best with Garmin BaseCamp, rather than Garmin MapSource. Download Garmin BaseCamp free at www.garmin.com/garmin/cms/us/onthetrail/basecamp. If you would like a copy of these updated directions for these newer Garmin GPS units, send me an email. □

Marketing the FLT



Bob Collins

Donna Flood staffing the FLT table in Colden at the Sunkist Hills Festival. Myra Lucerno and Bob Collins helped out and Gloria Potzler set up the display. She uses "Gloria magic" to make things look nice.

This is the second year we've had a presence at this festival in western New York near the Conservation Trail, and attendance has grown.

From the Mail...

Railroad artifacts along the trail

I meant to send an email last year... I was reading Tim Wilbur's "Walking Through Time" section about the old RR in Allegany State Park [Summer, 2010, featuring a strangely twisted piece of rail] and thought that piece of track was the one I saw in September, 2008, when hiking. I went through my pictures and found it wasn't the same piece of track. It's actually along the same section of trail between Access 3 and 4. I don't remember exactly where I saw these pieces of track, but they were on the left hand side of the trail a few feet away. It was the end of September, so they'd probably be easier to find in fall or spring. I was back in ASP at the end of August this year and couldn't find the piece because of all the vegetation. I did find the one Tim talked about though. I've attached the pictures so you could see.

Kirk Doyle



Evidence of abandoned track in Allegany State Park—one of Kirk Doyle's photos of a piece of track found beside the trail. Rail fan Irene Szabo says it looks like a joint splice piece that was used to bolt together two segments of 39-foot rail. Note the hole, not something you'd see in regular mid-span rail.

End-to-End Update

by Jacqui Wensich

FLT End-to-End Coordinator

Recent End-to-End Hikers - Main Trail

- #318 Jean Blackburn, Norwich
- #319 Tim Jones, Binghamton
- #320 Elizabeth Montesanto, Seneca Falls
- #321 Nancy Bergenstock, Prattsburg
- #322 Shirley Thomas, Webster
- #323 Jackson "Jet" Thomas, Webster
- #324 Adele Cook, Rochester
- #325 Dave Cook (2nd time, also #225), Rochester
- #326 Nancy Crowley, Middlesex
- #327 Marcia Herrick, Lansing
- #328 Wendy Stevenson, Springwater
- #329 Sarah Balduf, Darien Center
- #330 Michael Rickard, Darien Center
- #331 Henry Abbnick, Canandaigua

New End-to-Enders - Branch Trails

- #61 Larry Telle, Rochester
- #62 Jeff Patterson, Rochester
- #63 Larry Reister, Rochester
- #64 Penny Shaw, Marion
- #65 Gary Shaw, Marion
- #66 Richard Breslin, Greene
- #67 Phil Dankert, Ithaca

Earlier in the fall, Ed mentioned that he thought the all-time record for the yearly number of new 'enders' was 26. I predicted that we would beat that this year. 29 to date!!

After I reviewed the yearly records, Ed (of course) was correct. This is how the years stack up:

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|------|----|------|----|
| 2011 | 29* | 2002 | 17 | 1993 | 12 |
| 2010 | 14 | 2001 | 13 | 1992 | 6 |
| 2009 | 20 | 2001 | 13 | 1991 | 2 |
| 2008 | 26 | 1999 | 16 | 1990 | 2 |
| 2007 | 21 | 1998 | 19 | 1985 | 1 |
| 2006 | 20 | 1997 | 15 | 1974 | 1 |
| 2005 | 13 | 1996 | 11 | | |
| 2004 | 17 | 1995 | 15 | | |
| 2003 | 16 | 1994 | 12 | | |

* through October

Car Spotters

We ALWAYS need more car spotters to assist hikers on the main and branch trails. Please email me to apply, or get the form directly from the website.(For a complete list call 585/385-2265 or email jwensich@rochester.rr.com)

"Happy Hiking" from Ed Sidote

Jacqui Wensich

20 Sunrise Hill, Pittsford, NY 14534

585/385-2265

jwensich@rochester.rr.com

Welcome!

New and Returning Members August 2011 through October 2011

Brent Archer, Corning
Jared Barlow, Grand Island
Boy Scout Troop 750, Henrietta
Mahlon Bradley, Cortland
Brendan Byrne, Rochester
Sarah Chiara, Corning
A. James Ciacchio, MD, Skaneateles
Bob Dixon, Westport, MA
Don Hazlett, Mayfield
Thomas Jenks, Elbridge
George Kosmalar, Elmira Heights

Adam Lee, Ithaca
Terry McConnell, Lafayette
Bill Miller, Ithaca
Jan Miner, Clay
Kirk Mishrell, Hammondsport
Steven Pearson, Eden
Melanie Popick, Rochester
Jennifer Reidy, Larchmont
Ronald & Holly Rockwell,
& Erin, Chris & Noah, Rochester
Deborah Schaaf, Ithaca

Jim Seamans, Auburn
Donald & Linda Sheffer,
Canandaigua
Steve Shymkiw, Canandaigua
Brian Squire, Cleveland, OH
Ed Thorp, Rochester
Samuel Vrooman, Philadelphia, PA
Claire Whitenack, Ithaca
Charles Whitlock, Kitchener, ON
Michelle Widdel, Silver Lake

Reflections on the past year as new End-to-End Coordinator

by Jacqui Wensich, #178 (main trail), #39 (branches)

Ed Sidote asked me to take over his End-to-End Coordinator duties November 2010 after a blessedly brief illness. I have been assisting him since 2006 with cards, certificates, and car spotters and spreadsheets. After visiting him in Norwich and loading up his many boxes of photos and files, I realized that there was a lot more to it.

Ed has developed a large network of contacts and friends of the trail. I am fortunate to learn from a master. Ed continues to offer advice when I ask for it. He has been mindful of allowing me to develop in my own way, and I continue to appreciate his expertise and viewpoint.

I decided to start hiking the county series as a way to meet potential enders and complete my own casual second end-to-end hike. This was a banner year of new enders, many of whom came from the county series; At least thirteen finished at Cortland County. I also met one hiker on the trail, #310 Theresa Evans, and several at their homes to deliver the main trail card and patches. I hiked the last hike with Henry Abbnick #331 during the Fall Campout. This is the best part of my job.

With the help of the John A-X. Morris, Joe Dabes, and others, we defined the "End-to-End hike". Many aspiring hikers have emailed me to update their progress. A few still contact Ed, but he sends them to me. Many enders have completed the documentation via email. This works well as I have established Word files on each person including photos. Hard copies of the documentation are fine, too.

After the 50th Anniversary Celebration in June, I plan go off the FLTC Board and concentrate on my duties as End-to-End Coordinator. I look forward to meeting more hikers on the trail. □



Liz Patterson

#308 Jeff Patterson receives his awards from Jacqui Wensich..



#310 Theresa Evans show park worker her award..

#316 Howard and #317 Carole Camp are congratulated by Ed Sidote. They started hiking the FLT in 1978..



Doug Cunningham

One Fantastic Journey: All the end-to-enders who attended the final picnic of the Cortland hike series.

Photos by Jacqui Wensich unless otherwise identified.

Cortland hike series coordinator Karen Serbonich (left) had a birthday cake made for end-to-ender #3 Ed Sidote (birthday #94).





Of course there were hikes. Left to right: John Elia, Jacqui Wensich, Tom Bryden, Ron Navik, Carol Mallison, Carol Smith. Photo by Rich Natoli. The photos below are by Jacqui Wensich.

Fall Campout 2011

This was another great Finger Lakes Trail Conference outing, hosted by the Bullthistle Hikers Club and held at Chenango Valley State Park near Binghamton. My many thanks to them for making the most, and then some, of a cold and at times wet weekend!

I always enjoy these outings, held every spring and fall...it's a chance to meet up with old friends from across the state (which I did), make new friends from across the state (which I did), and get out to do some nice hiking on the FLT (which I also did)!

But this weekend's event had an added spark, two very excellent speakers! Fred Gee, a nationally acclaimed folksinger, entertained us with a sing-along on Friday night. This was followed by Chuck D'Imperio's talk on Saturday night. Chuck is a prolific author and story teller who writes and speaks about Upstate New York; he's also a radio broadcaster in Oneonta.

— Larry Blumberg



Folksinger Fred Gee led the group in a sing-along Friday evening.



Chuck D'Imperio entertains the Saturday evening crowd.

Big Chuck's Impression of Us

Here, for your enjoyment, is an excerpt from the Saturday guest speaker Chuck D'Imperio's article in the Oneota Daily Star.

During my ride to Chenango Valley, I tried to conjure up the demographics of the group I was to address. Young? Yes. Trim and the picture of health? For sure. Clear of eye, ruddy of complexion, adventurous of spirit? Absolutely.

Well, I nailed the "adventurous of spirit" part of the equation.

The group consisted of mostly 60-year-olds and up. They were hale and hearty and experts on everything outdoors. There were rail-thin, wiry athletic types. And there was plenty of, how shall I say, "Big Chuck" and Tom Bryden types. There were even white-haired, rimless-glasses-wearing grandmotherly types who looked like they would be more comfortable doing cross-stitch in a rocking chair than being here swathed in hooded parkas and wearing Sierra Trading Post heavy duty hiking boots.

There's more in the same vein. Read it in the Big Chuck column at thedailystar.com/bigchuck/x708028845/I-never-took-a-hike-in-my-life-would-do-it-again. Recommended. The guy's a talented writer.



Listening to Chuck, they forgot the cold.

Six and a half miles on the FLT: An amazing place to be

by Tim Jones, End-to-End Hiker #318

June 6, 2011

I hiked 20 miles this past weekend on the FLT in the Bath area (maps M10-M12). On Friday and Saturday, the area abounded with the usual wildlife: deer, turkey, chipmunks, squirrels, and a morbidly obese groundhog. There were lots of birds including black birds in a field with pale strips going down their backs like a skunk (saw one of those as well) that I couldn't identify in any of our bird books. But Sunday's hike, covering the first six and a half miles of map M12 in a westerly direction, was truly inspirational.

Early on in the hike I saw my first-ever weasel, which was crossing my path carrying a dead rodent in its mouth as its short little legs hurried along. Then as I passed above a pond a huge bald eagle took flight. Soon after this I jumped a deer (one of many on this hike). She was lying in a narrow strip

of woods between the trail and a field. She must have been sound asleep as she leaped and then just stood there at the field's edge looking dazed and wondering what it was that disturbed her. I remained frozen watching her as she walked back into the woods across the trail, passing within 15 feet of me. I called "Good Morning!" and she turned to look at me, in apparent disbelief, and then she bounded away. Not five minutes later I saw something I never thought I would ever see around here. A peacock and peahen were walking on the trail directly in front of me; I kept pace with them for a minute or two before they disappeared. As I plowed further along lost in thought I suddenly got the distinctly eerie feeling that I was being watched, but the woods were quiet and still. A few yards away directly on the trail I saw a freshly severed turkey leg/thigh. I imagined some predator was nearby jealously leering at me as I hovered over its spoils, and I decided to make haste and left the scene. I passed three different spots where groups of hundreds of small grasshoppers jumped off the trail for cover. My favorite encounter of the day, however, occurred near the end of

this hike. In the corner of the last farm field just before entering the woods I was about to step down when at least three small brown birds flew out from under foot. At first I thought it was a covey of quail, but then realized they were too slow and didn't go very far. Then the mother bird rushed towards me; it was a ruffed grouse. She feigned injury and limped along with one wing outstretched as she made wounded noises that sounded just like a puppy whining. She entered the woods and traveled down the blazed trail in the direction I just happened to be traveling, no doubt pleased with herself that she was leading me away from her chicks. She then suddenly flew off fully intact; I could just imagine her laughing at me, "ha, ha, fooled you". But it was me who laughed out loud and in total delight. I can't imagine a better place to be than hiking the FLT.

□



Tim Jones #318 of Binghamton at Robert Treman State Park upon his completion of the FLT, September 16, 2011.

L to R: Tim's son Matt, Tim, and his wife Kathy. Tim's neighbor and friend Don Carle took the picture.



The FLT Experience of Tim Jones

It took me three years to section hike half of the FLT and then six months to hike the other half.

I am extremely grateful to all those who created the FLT and maintain it, as the FLT has given me so much. When I needed it, I had solitude, and when I needed it, I had camaraderie. While hiking the FLT I felt close to nature and was awe inspired by so much of what I saw and experienced. I got to spend quality time with family and friends, and I made new friends along the way. I exercised the dogs

which also helped me to lose some weight. I challenged myself and I grew stronger. I got lost and I found myself. Many worries worked themselves out and were left behind as the miles passed along. I also got to spend a lot of time with my wife Kathy as she shuttled me around quite a bit this year; I am extremely fortunate to have such a supportive person in my life. We now maintain a section of the main trail near Bainbridge and find that giving a little something back is also very rewarding.

— Tim Jones

Corbett Hollow West ...

(Continued from page 8)

trail town. I was delighted to see that two bright new stoves had been installed but was dismayed to learn that the hot water wasn't on. Knowing that a hot shower is as essential a motivator to the crew as are food and sleep, Ralph and Marlene Brown mobilized a scout response team that got the hot water back on in less than 24 hours.

Monday morning we stuffed ourselves on a delicious breakfast quiche prepared ahead of time by Theresa Warden and reheated by Gene Binder, who helped with the meals all week.

The crew then broke into two teams. Ron Navik agreed to lead a team of Gus Phillips, Georgie Binder, Tim Wilbur and Jo Taylor that had the task of building five switchback legs and assembling and placing a sturdy but simple puncheon-style footbridge. Larry Newman joined them later on. Ron's team started from the east side of Monterey/Sexton Hollow Rd. where the trail crosses the gas well road and went to work with remarkable enthusiasm.

The rest followed me over to the second major site, the end of Corbett Hollow, where we accepted a load of lumber from Knapp and Schlappi (Penn Yan, delivery fee only \$9!) delivered right on time by a very reliable driver named Duane. Gil Oswald from Knapp and Schlappi had suggested the idea of scuffing up the walking surface to reduce slipperiness; now we had to find a way to do it quickly and efficiently. We tried using a small disk with a chainsaw blade. It quickly became apparent that the device would work but it would take forever and would use up an 18 volt battery on just two boards.

Suddenly I heard the sound of an actual chainsaw behind me and turned to see Mark Musso, one of our certified sawyers, quickly roughing up one side of a 2x10 that he had set up on two saw horses. The rest immediately formed a production line and in no time, there were enough boards ready for a trip in.

I got the easy job of driving the Mule on the narrow, rough old road. Crew members loaded and unloaded and then carried the wood into the area where they were to build 18 puncheons.

By that time, Forest Ranger Bill Meehan had arrived, and he stole Gary Brouse and John Burnham to work on the third project area of putting in more water control measures where the trail had been relocated above and across the top of a gully that had started to cut across the trail. They dug drainage ditches and built a small "bridge" of cross planks sitting on a box frame, using materials left over from the puncheons. Fueled by Monday night's dinner of pulled pork that Donna Colvin, a "Scout House" board member, had prepared, and Tuesday's breakfast of burritos that volunteer Lynn Reidel had served up, they finished their work in about a day and a half and went off to find the puncheon builders to help them.

It took the switchback builders about a day and a half, too. Of the three subprojects, this was the most mind-numbing and back-bending, and these folks were pretty tired after day one. But by the end of day two, the crew was reinvigorated by the fact that they had finished and had done a great job.

The puncheon builders took only slightly longer to finish their project. Because the puncheons were to be fitted in between hummocks and roots, the members of the puncheon crew—Tom Babcock, John Burnham, Joe Cobb, and Pete Nye—had to make many decisions about length and placement on the spot. I had labeled the flags with my best guess regarding what was needed at each location (so the correct materials could be dropped off); but it was really up to the crew to adjust the standardized wood to the ground features they found. They did a magnificent job.

So by the end of day two, all the major tasks for the Alley Cat crew had been completed. I was astounded. After a dinner of chicken and biscuits prepared by Gary and Mary Ellen Haff (served by Joe and Peg Striano and Ivan and Flora Cranmer) and more of Theresa's

quiche at breakfast, the crew, which had signed on for 4.5 days, was still ready for more work. So they cleared my 3-mile section between South Bradford (Moss Hill Rd.) and Monterey/Sexton Hollow Rd. (M13), which had been neglected because an injury to my left knee had made it nearly impossible for me to hike downhill. Then we went to Mark Musso's section south of Elmboise Rd. (CR 77) on B2 and reinstalled three bridges that had been flooded off their sills, and then returned to Corbett Hollow, paint-blazed the new segments, and built one last sturdy puncheon across the top of a new cut.

Wednesday's delicious dinner was prepared and served by Dick and Jan Liebe. The evening of Thursday, September 1, we enjoyed a barbecue at Tom and Donna Noteware's lakeside home with Frank and Carolee Giulbault; and Friday's breakfast was baked oatmeal and fresh peaches, a fabulous dish prepared by Lynn Reidel. A very special thanks to Georgie and Gene Binder who left the Scout House spotless. As an extra "thank you" to the scouts, the FLTC donated two new large sauté pans and some implements for the scouts to use on their two new stoves.

Two weeks later, I retrieved the 2x12's and the ramps from the creek crossing and, with Bill Meehan's help, closed the supply route up the west side of the creek in Corbett Hollow. The ramps are stored, waiting to be used in the next challenging creek crossing. The boards are now at work on the Outback Inn (B2) replacement project, and the job of refurbishing the Art Kopp Section is done, at least until the next natural or manmade calamity strikes. And speaking of that, even though some of the blaze trees will be cut when the top of The Hill with No Name between Monterey/Sexton Hollow Rd. and Corbett Hollow is logged soon, I also replaced all the temporary plastic and aluminum blazes with paint, just to help the loggers remember we're still going to be there after they leave. □

Article removed at author's request

**Our sincere thanks for gifts in
memory of:**

Patty Millard

from

Ruth & Daniel Dorrough
Teresa & Maxwell Blenis
Kim & Terry Meacham
Pat Monahan
Gail & David Ellsworth

Howard Beye

from

Adirondack Mountain Club,
Genesee Valley Chapter

Robert McNitt

from

Ed Sidote

Joseph Benenati, Jr

from

Ed Sidote

.....

Answer to the Fall "Name that Map!" Quiz

Only ONE person correctly identified
Doug Cunningham's photo from
Map 8:

Tom Duddy



Techies Wanted

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference is moving into the 21st century. We are fortunate to have a few people with a high degree of technical knowledge helping us when it comes to computers, networks, websites, GPS, smart phones, etc., BUT we need MORE. We are especially looking for someone to help us rebuild our office network and also for people to serve on our IT Committee, which will study various technologies and make recommendations to the Board on how to keep us up to date with the "real world" and help us attract those who use the newer technologies.

Thar's bars in them thar hills...



Fresh bear tracks, April 7, 2011, Bullthistle Hiking Club hike on Map 27 in Delaware County near Masonville. Photo by Warren Johnsen.



Right: photo by Irene Szabo

Revisiting my Bristol Hills Trail (Map B3) post-logging section.

From an email by Irene Szabo, June 24, 2011:

The clear-cuts of the last of the 90's produced vast acres of raspberries, of course, which invited bears to rummage juicily in late summer. Last Saturday I actually burdened myself with a camera during my last traverse of the hard-work June flogging of that section, whacking a clear trail out of the still-enthused greenery on the path, the fourth (or was it fifth?) of the session just to do that damned little mile, but, oh, how I love that segment! Shade is increasing valiantly, so my work is actually less each year, but it's clearly hardly done.

At the very beginning of the post-clear-cut section, last year a big bear scratch appeared on one of the last standing red pines. I'd passed there before over the last few weeks, no change to last year's stiffened yellow sap in claw marks, but Saturday surprised me with a new de-barking! Our bear has grown taller. I started talking to the dogs. This was no time to be silent.



FLT end to enders Ruth and Dan Dorrough (top right) and Bill and Mary Coffin catch a few miles of the Pictured Rocks section of the NCT in the upper peninsula of Michigan on NCTA's week long Extended Outing. The FLTC's Mary Coffin was the hike leader. A passerby took this picture with Mary's camera. Ruth and Dan aspire to hike the entire NCT and are accruing miles.

Use the coupon on the next page to join the North Country Trail Association at a discounted rate for FLTC members.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012

Winter / Howard Beye Hike

Leader: Cate Concannon, catrina616@gmail.com or 585/880-4456 (email preferred)

Bristol Hills Branch Trail, FLT Map B2

Hike: We'll plan to start near access 7, which is near DeWolf Road, and hike through to the parking area on Pulver Rd. The hike/snowshoe will be approximately 7 miles and take us through the Italy Hill State Forest on the Bristol Hills Trail.

We'll be able to check out the new Outback Inn shelter and privy erected by Boy Scouts this past fall. Please dress in layers, and pack a lunch and plenty of water.

Please RSVP to hike leader by January 10 so that she can plan the car spotting/shuttle, or contact her with questions. Maps of the Bristol Hills trail can be purchased very inexpensively from the FLTC website, and would make a lovely Christmas gift!

Meet: 10:30 am, location is TBD, but it will either be at FLT Map B2 Access 7, or in the village of Naples, depending on which parking areas are plowed out. Meeting place and directions will be announced on the FLTC website, listserv and Facebook page in early January.

SATURDAY, April 14, 2012

Spring / Wally Wood Hike

Leader: Phil Dankert, pdankert@twcny.rr.com

International Loop, Dryden/Cortland area, FLT Map M19

Hike: The International Loop combines the Swedish Loop Trail (SwLT), the Spanish Loop Trail (SLT), and portions of the "American" Finger Lakes Trail. The hike will start at the northern FLT trailhead on Daisy Hollow Road (see FLT Map M19).

After about a mile on the FLT, which traverses a spectacular hemlock forest with plenty of stream views, hikers will take the SwLT, which continues in the hemlock forest but with a greater sense of remoteness. After the SwLT section ends at the FLT, hikers will begin the gradual climb of mighty Owego Hill using several long, gentle switchbacks.

Along the way, hikers will pass the International Mine, which is quite safe to explore and is marked by a red dot on one of the white blazes and a small cairn. A few steps uphill from the trail gets you to the very old mine opening.

Soon hikers will arrive at the SLT, which passes through a wonderful variety of terrain—including a Norway spruce forest, some lovely mossy springs, and an evergreen tree farm that is now going back to nature—before reconnecting with the FLT, which will lead hikers back to the loop's original starting point. The entire hike is approx 7.1 miles long.

Meet: 10:00 am at the FLT's northern trailhead on Daisy Hollow Road.

Directions to Meeting Location: From either Ithaca or the Binghamton area take NY Route 38 to Daisy Hollow Rd; this intersection is approximately 5 miles south of Dryden, and just north of Harford. Turn onto Daisy Hollow Rd (in a northerly direction) for approx 3.5 miles till you reach the second (northern) FLT trailhead. It is near Carpenter Hill Rd. GPS coordinates are N42 28.235, W76 13.880.

Join the North Country Trail Association

A Special Deal for FLTC Members!

Now you can join the North Country Trail Association for just \$23 per year! You'll get a subscription to North Star magazine, and the satisfaction of helping develop the North Country National Scenic Trail. To join, send this coupon to: NCTA, 229 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331 or call 866-Hike-NCT

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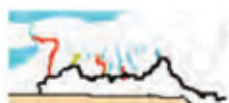
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Other FLTC hikes in 2012:

July 21 - Annual Ed Sidote (Summer) Hike

Tompkins County Hike Series - 6 hikes from April through September. Registration information will be available in spring.



NAME THAT MAP!
So, you hiked the FLT or
parts of it. Let's see how
observant you were!
Send your guess to:

jwensich@rochester.rr.com

Right: This double seat is located in a popular shelter
on...name that map. *Photo by Jacqui Wensich.*



The answer to the fall issue's Name That
Map on page 29.

FLTC OFFICE HOURS: We are
normally open Mondays and
Thursdays, 9:30 to 3:30, but there
are frequent exceptions, so call
ahead if you want to be sure.
585/658-9320

Moving?

Instructions for notifying the
FLTC of address changes
appear at the bottom of the
masthead on page 1 of every
issue of the *FLT News*.



A gift to the Finger Lakes Trail
Conference helps to protect and preserve
the Trail forever. Gifts may take several
forms, such as MEMORIALS,
HONORARIUMS, and PLANNED
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FLTC, Inc.,
6111 Visitor Center Road Mt. Morris,
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(585-658-9320), or
e-mail address
information@fingerlakestrail.org

Club Presidents Council

The Club Presidents Council is composed of
regional organizations that find strength and
support through association. If you wish to join, volunteer for trail
work, or participate in the activities of these organizations, contact
may be made through the telephone numbers or websites listed.

Buffalo Area

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ADK Niagara Frontier Chapter | www.adk-nfc.org |
| Foothills Trail Club | www.foothillstrailclub.org |

Rochester Area

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| ADK Genesee Valley Chapter | www.gvc-adk.org |
| Genesee Valley Hiking Club | www.gvhchikes.org |

Syracuse Area

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| ADK Onondaga Chapter | www.adk-on.org |
|----------------------|--|

Ithaca and Elmira

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ADK Finger Lakes Chapter | 607/936-3988 |
| Cayuga Trails Club | www.cayugatrailclub.org |

Corning Area

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Three Rivers Outing Club | 607/962-5157 |
|--------------------------|--------------|

Binghamton Area

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Triple Cities Hiking Club | www.triplecitieshikingclub.org |
|---------------------------|--|

Chenango County

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| FLT-Bullthistle Hikers | www.bullthistlehiking.org |
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Eastern NY

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| ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter | www.midhudsonadk.org |
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sigischwinge@aol.com

Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc.

Calendar of Events

January 14, 2012..... Annual Howard Beye (Winter) Hike. Bristol Hills
Branch Trail near Naples. See page 31.

February 3 Deadline for submitting material for the spring
issue of the *Finger Lakes Trail News*.

March 3 Board of Managers meeting, Geneva Chamber
of Commerce Bldg,

April 14..... Annual Wally Wood (Spring) Hike. International
Loop, Dryden/Cortland area. See page 31.

May 5 Board of Managers meeting, Virgil Town Hall.

June 2 National Trails Day.

**June 15-17 FLT 50th Anniversary Weekend at Keuka
College. Save the Date!**

July 21 Annual Ed Sidote (Summer) Hike. Bowman
Lake State Park. Led by Don Windsor.

**September 21-23 ... Fall Campout at Robert H. Treman State Park
near Ithaca. Hosted by the Cayuga Trails
Club. Save the Date!**

2012 County Hike Series, Tompkins County. 4th Saturdays, with two
exceptions: 4/28, 5/19 (3rd Saturday), 6/9 (2nd Saturday), 7/28, 8/25
and 9/22. The September hike will take place in conjunction with the
FLTC Fall Campout.

Please check the FLT website (www.fingerlakestrail.org) for
up-to-date calendar information.

In the interest of legally protecting those landowners who have
permitted us to build our trail across their land, the Finger Lakes
Trail System will be closed on all private lands for 24 hours on
Monday, February 6, 2012.

JOIN THE FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ County _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Make your check payable to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference and
mail to 6111 Visitor Center Rd., Mt. Morris, NY 14510 along with
this application.

Annual dues (Membership year runs from April 1 to March 1. Dues
paid after Dec. 31 will be applied to the next membership year.)

Individual.....\$30 Contributing:

Family\$40

Student (full-time; give Pathfinder \$50

permanent address).....\$15 Trailblazer \$75

Youth organization\$15 Guide \$100

Adult organization\$50 Life (individual) \$400 (family) \$600

Business/Commercial (includes a listing on the FLTC website) \$100

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6111 Visitor Center Road
Mt. Morris, NY 14510

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Trail map from 1964

In March of 1962 Wallace D. Wood of Rochester, NY, organized existing hiking clubs to build a trail across the state. Meeting for two days at Keuka College on the shores of beautiful Keuka Lake, they established the foundation of the current organization.

We have come a long way and you have been part of it. Come and celebrate.

50th Anniversary of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference

June 15-17th, 2012 at Keuka College

