

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Summer 2013



Inside...

- * *Cobb Chronicles*
- * *FLTC Fall Campout 2013*
- * *Onondaga Trail Completed*

President's Message

Pat Monahan

Earlier this spring, I walked in the Great Saunter in NYC around the island of Manhattan. It was 34 miles of urban trails that gave some spectacular views of the river and the city. There were approximately 1000 of us who enjoyed a beautiful day (Makes the county hike series seem small, doesn't it!). I have drawn the conclusion that I really do prefer the beauty of the FLT system and enjoy being out in the woods. Our footpath provides some outstanding views that have no comparison to a walk down a strip of blacktop with thousands of other users.

Summer is now here in New York State as you read this. We have held our annual membership meeting on June 1 at Alfred University. I would like to thank Phil Dankert and Gail Merian for their service on the Board. The Board Class of 2016 includes returning Board members Cate Concannon, David Drum and Donna Flood as well as adding new members Gene Bavis and David Tuttle. Thank you to the membership for its vote of confidence for these new Board members. Our Vice President of Finance reported that we are fiscally sound and operating within our means as a membership driven organization. Speaking of that, I hope you have renewed your membership for this year. We cannot stay true to our mission "to build, maintain, enhance and promote a continuous footpath across New York State" without your help.

Finally, we are a volunteer organization. Have you considered giving back to the trail as a volunteer? It could be as simple as stuffing envelopes or as complex as running a conference weekend. It might be doing some trail construction in the Catskills or snipping back the multiflora rose on a section of trail. I hope you can find your niche and join others who enjoy being outdoors as much as you do. Contact the office and we will get you started at fltinfo@fingerlakestrail.com.



▲ 8 year old Thayerin Coppola, Nike in his safety hat, and Pat Monahan at last summer's shelter project on the Crystal Hills Trail in McCarthy Hill State Forest, Steuben County.

After you sign up to volunteer, go take a hike!!

FINGER LAKE TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF

Dick Hubbard, Executive Director

•716/604-8380 • rdh@bufflo.com

Jennifer Hopper, Office Manager/Accounting & Database Assistant

Stephanie Spittal, Order Fulfillment/General Information

OFFICERS

Pat Monahan, President

•Corning •607/936-8312 • pmonahan@stny.rr.com

Ronald Navik, VP Trail Preservation

•Penfield •585/377-1812 • ron.navik@frontiernet.net

Steve Catherman, VP Trail Maintenance

•Bath •607/569-3453 • stevec@roadrunner.com

Lynda Rummel, VP Trail Quality

•Keuka Park •315/536-9484 • ljrassoc@roadrunner.com

Jarret Lobb, VP Finance

•Pittsford •585/383-1938 • fltboard@lobbonline.com

Peggy Coleman, VP Membership & Marketing

•Elmira •607/426-0494 • pcoleman@corningfingerlakes.com

Roy Dando, Secretary

•Endwell •607/785-3141 • rdando@verizon.net

Quinn Wright, Treasurer

•Buffalo •716/826-1939 • wrightquinn@hotmail.com

Matt Branneman, VP Construction

•Ithaca •607/220-77812 • mattbranneman@gmail.com

Greg Farnham, Mapping Director

•Fayetteville •315/877-5762 • greg@gfarnham.com

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Terms Expiring 2014

Scott Bahantka

•Painted Post •607/962-7627 • sbahantka@stny.rr.com

Jon Bowen

•Baldwinsville •315/638-8749 • jkbowen@gmail.com

Donna Coon

•Gilbertsville •607/445-4003 • coledonnarn@yahoo.com

Melanie Okoniewski

•Buffalo •716/341-4737 • mokoniewski@bufflogames.com

Sigi Schwinge

•East Syracuse •315/437-6906 • sigischwinge@aol.com

Terms Expiring 2015

Doug Cunningham

•Brockport •585/637-3853 • dcunnin4@rochester.rr.com

Greg Farnham

•Fayetteville •315/877-5762 • greg@gfarnham.com

Roger Hopkins

•Lansing •607/257-9778 • roger@naturalhighs.net

Terry Meacham

•Hornell •607/324-0374 • meach@infoblvld.net

Laurie Ondrejka

•Avon •585/865-1989 • laurie.ondrejka@sungardhe.com

Terms Expiring 2016

Gene Bavis

•Walworth •315/986-1474 • genebavis@me.com

Cathy Concannon

•Geneseo •585/880-4456 • catrina616@gmail.com

David Drum

•Hammondsport •607/569-2294 • drumdl@gmail.com

Donna Flood

•Clarence •716/759-6442 • dmflood@roadrunner.com

David Tuttle

•Pittsford •david_tuttle@pittsfordtrafficandradar.biz

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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Service Center
6111 Visitor Center Road
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
(585) 658-9320

Editor

Irene Szabo
6939 Creek Road,
Mt. Morris, NY 14510.
Phone (585) 658-4321
treeweenie@aol.com

Editing Assistance

Brenda Reeb

Layout/Graphic Design

Jennifer Hopper

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich

Trail Medicine

Bob Michiel

Walking through Time

Irene Szabo, Tim Wilbur

Natural Connections

John A-X. Morris

FLT Archives

Georgianne Vyverberg

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Finger Lakes Trail Conference

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FLTC Office Hours

We are normally open Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00 to 2:30, but there are frequent exceptions, so call ahead if you want to be sure: 585-658-9320

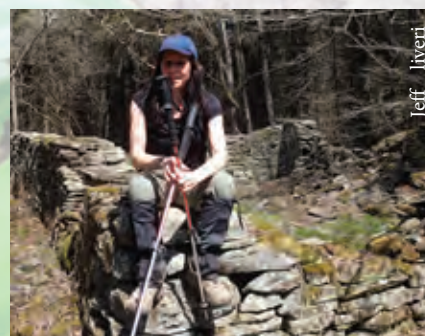
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► Luanne Vallese, Binghamton, NY, rests on an old foundation wall found on FLT Map M30, just west of the NY 206 crossing in the western Catskills. Fall Campout Hikes B1 and B2 will both pass by this spot.



COLUMNS

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COVER: Dawn at his favorite swamp by Vinnie Collins and one resident goose.

The Roads Less Traveled

Rick Roberts

Andy Rooney, the long time commentator on TV's *60 Minutes*, often started his monologue with "Ya know what I hate?" He would then go on to lay damage on, say, pill bottles that were only half full of pills and the rest with cotton, or food packages that were packages inside of packages.

Well, ya know what I hate? I hate hiking on highways. If we were meant to hike on roads a skateboard would be part of our equipment or inline skates. Hiking poles are of no use on macadam. After thru-hiking the FLT (yes, it was a long time ago; in fact I was # 51) I was disappointed by the vast number of endless road walks in the Catskills. Right off the bat, anyone starting from the east was required to slog down mile after mile on the Beaverkill Rd. I grew up in the Catskills and as a youth roamed all over the hills, valleys and streams at will. I could not understand why the FLT was on a road and promised that when I moved back to this beautiful area, I would find a remedy to that problem.

Well, I'm here. Been here for over 10 years and my dream of relocating the FLT off the roads and into the woods is finally happening. My main concern was in the Downsville/Walton sections. In all, two complete FLT maps had the trail on 21.5 miles of road. During my thru-hike, I remember spending an entire day pounding the asphalt and dodging dogs. After several years of fits and starts, of hiking up and down the hills and trying to find a good route, I finally discovered a potential trail from the Hamlet of Corbett to the Bear Spring Wildlife Management area (BSWMA). In 2009, I secured a trail agreement with the Heartland Forest Fund and a private owner, Mark Mattson, giving the FLT access to cross over 2000 acres of woodland. The trail now went directly from Corbett, over the mountain to the BSWMA. In 2010 it was five miles down, 16.5 to go.

Working with Charlie Laing and Paul Lenz of the NY City's Dept. of Environmental Protection (the agency in charge of extensive lands protecting the city's water source reservoirs), I was able to secure access across two DEP parcels, near County Rte 47. That access permit, which overturned years' worth of *enforced* prohibition against walking off-road into their lands, along with two private owners, Adin Miller and Arthur Connor, allowed the FLT to be rerouted from Co. Rte. 47 to Dryden Brook Rd. Alley Cat #1 in 2012 constructed miles of new trail. It was now 9 miles down, 12 miles to go.

After I worked three years to find a route from Campbell Mt. into the Village of Downsville and on to the BSWMA, a 12 mile reroute, eliminating the 5 mile road walk down Campbell Brook Rd. to Corbett, was completed in May of 2013. By linking together existing DEC trails, log roads thru the lands of Gutches Lumber, and one private owner, the FLT now passes thru the Village of Downsville. Before this reroute, a westbound hiker would not have encountered any town until Bainbridge, 90 miles from the start at Denning. This reroute however replaced my first one and that section was abandoned. The FLTC wishes to thank the DEC, Gutches Lumber and Alan Shaver for their cooperation with this vital reroute.

As of late May 7.5 miles of road walk remain to be eliminated, but by time you read this, all 21.5 road miles will have been replaced and the total road miles reduced to less than 4. The first 2013 Alley Cat Crew is camping out at my house for five days; that's 8-10 stinky guys (the gals don't stink so bad). Hopefully at the end of those five days over 10 miles of new trail will be constructed. This new section is entirely on DEP land and the FLTC is deeply indebted to them for their new policy of cooperation.

This by no means completes my quest for total elimination of the dreaded road walks. I still have the Beaverkill to tackle as well as several small sections to be pieced together over the next few years. With any luck next year's Alley Cat crew will construct an 8 mile new spur trail to the Rock Rift Fire Tower. My wife often comments that I spend too much time on trail work. But hey, somebody's gotta do it. Thanks, Honey, for putting up with my quest.

Editor's note of appreciation: As end-to-ender #30 I did those long roadwalks even before you, Rick. I'd heard scary stories of armed DEP agents accosting hikers who dared step off the road to make a Necessary Stop in the woods, but I also knew that the few members we had in that neighborhood were not the brave souls who would forge inroads with the DEP, well-meaning though they might have been. Our trail route just plain had to wait for the right ambitious and capable person to come along, so we are grateful that Rick is here! Who knows what changed the DEP's perception of the "danger" to the city water supply from hikers, but inquiries from both the New York New Jersey Trail Conference and the FLTC about the same time a half-dozen years ago started the happy process. Irene Szabo 🍁

Jackson "Jet" Thomas

November through April New and Returning Members

4 Weekend Hikers
 Kevin Armstrong
 Colin Bailey
 Joseph Baldino
 Joe Bell
 Steven Bender
 Alan Benedict
 Chad Bigelow
 Wanda Bigelow
 Beth Bowen
 Sean & Pat Brady
 David Brittain
 Nancy Bronstein
 Ryan & Karen Castle
 Beverly Clark
 Carol Colton & Family
 Cornell Law School
 Jocelyn F. Dewey
 Rob Dickerson
 Steven Eaton
 Mitchell Ehrenberg
 Nathaniel Eldredge
 Bryan Ellis
 Joyce Ermer
 Margaret Erway
 C. Bonnie Everhart
 Glenn Ewing
 Eileen Fairbrother
 James Gagnon
 Andrew Giraud
 Mike Granger
 Colleen Gyr
 Nathaniel Hamlett
 Beth Harris
 David B. Harrison
 Lee & Brenda Haskins
 Gary Heberger
 James Heverly
 Tom Ingersoll
 Dwight Kauppi
 Mary Ann Knight Colbert
 Andrew Kowalczewski
 Deanna Laurentz
 Kenneth Lewaine
 Marnie Lewis
 Dan Lombardo
 Thad Lunceford
 Sasha MacKenzie
 Ian Mackie
 Caleb Mammen
 Steve & Stephanie Marshall
 Merry McCall
 Sean Miller
 Wayne B. Moyer III
 Richard Mulvey

East Aurora, NY
 Naples, NY
 Scio, NY
 Pittsford, NY
 East Aurora, NY
 Eden, NY
 Watkins Glen, NY
 Elmira, NY
 Little Valley, NY
 Groton, NY
 Binghamton, NY
 Fayetteville, NY
 Syracuse, NY
 Lewisburg, PA
 Sherrill, NY
 LeRoy, NY
 Ithaca, NY
 Cortland, NY
 Spencerport, NY
 Van Etten, NY
 Rochester, NY
 Ithaca, NY
 Locke, NY
 Olean, NY
 Fairport, NY
 Syracuse, NY
 Harford, NY
 Morrisville, NY
 Greene, NY
 Syracuse, NY
 Fillmore, NY
 Angelica, NY
 Little Valley, NY
 Ithaca, NY
 Rochester, NY
 Bath, NY
 Rochester, NY
 Horseheads, NY
 Sodus, NY
 Corfu, NY
 Ithaca, NY
 Syracuse, NY
 Ithaca, NY
 Belford, NJ
 Syracuse, NY
 Nunda, NY
 Manlius, NY
 Naples, NY
 Franklinville, NY
 Buffalo, NY
 Naples, NY
 Sodus, NY
 East Amherst, NY
 Naples, NY
 Rochester, NY

Gary Nosowicz
 Thomas Leo Obuck
 Wade Oliver
 Diana Ozolins
 Keith Parker
 Marilee Patterer
 Kenneth Polte
 Steve Randall
 John Reighn
 Charlene Revette
 James Reynolds
 Joyce Rickles
 Erin Riddle
 Steve Scheidweiler
 Margaret Schmidt-Fuller
 Robert A. Schneider
 Deborah Smith
 Nathan O. Smith
 Matt Stevens & Family
 Carole Tota
 Julianna Van Sant
 David Volt
 W. Dale Waterman
 Fran Wells
 Melanie Weston
 Penelope Wickham
 Stephen Wiczorek
 Andrew Withington
 Dutch Yowell

Orchard Park, NY
 Ithaca, NY
 Lakeville, NY
 Ithaca, NY
 Groton, NY
 Black Creek, NY
 Rochester, NY
 Hilton, NY
 Rochester, NY
 DeRuyter, NY
 Syracuse, NY
 Rose, NY
 Johnson City, NY
 Freeville, NY
 South Otselic, NY
 Endicott, NY
 Kanona, NY
 Eaton, NY
 Penn Yan, NY
 Horseheads, NY
 Freeville, NY
 Branchport, NY
 Forestville, NY
 Groton, NY
 Marathon, NY
 Ithaca, NY
 Clarence, NY
 Louisville, KY
 Hammondsport, NY

FLT CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 County _____ Phone (_____) _____
 Email _____

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

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	Pathfinder.....
Student (full-time; give		Trailblazer.....
permanent address) ..	\$15	Guide
Youth organization	\$15	Life (individual).....
Adult organization	\$50	Life (family).....
Business/Commercial		
(includes a listing on the FLTC website).....	\$100	

Ithaca's Boy Scout Troop 4 and The FLT

Bill Miller, Scoutmaster, Troop 4

For years, Ithaca's Boy Scout Troop 4 has been using and giving back to the FLT. The troop is 97 years old and emphasizes outdoor activities. We camp year round, with more than 75% of our monthly campouts held on the FLT. While we typically camp near lean-tos, it is a policy of the troop not to sleep in them (saving them for any late arrivals). The lean-tos give us a specific location point in case of an emergency, yet the lean-to remains available for individuals and small groups. When we are not near a lean-to, we get well off the trail and stay on state land.

Our favorite lean-tos are Chestnut, Shindagin, Tamarack, Dunham (Interloken trail), Woodchuck Hollow, and Teeter Pond (north on the Interloken). These locations have reliable water nearby to facilitate teaching and learning about water purification and water hygiene while camping. A Troop 4 monthly campout begins at the trail head in the evening, then a relatively short (usually less than 1 mile) walk (backpacking) into the site. This is a huge adventure for an 11 or 12-year old scout, especially in October or November when they are doing this in the dark for the first time. We hike on Saturday, build debris shelters or snow caves in the winter or lash something together, and cook over an open fire. What better for a kid to do?



▲ It's great to be backpacking in the last snow on a beautiful sunny day in early April!

Past Eagle Scout projects from Troop 4 have directly benefitted the FLT. The piped water source at Tamarack Lean-To was one, while the troop also hauled in a new fire ring, improved drainage near the lean-to and rerouted the spur trail to the lean-to.

A recent example of Troop 4's use of the trail was in April 2013. This trip was more elaborate than our usual weekend adventure. We embarked on a "shakedown trip" in preparation for a 75 mile backpacking trip at Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico later this summer. The plan was to start near Hornell on map M10 (access 2) and hike west to map M8, access 5 (downtown Swain), a distance of about 26 miles.

Friday was beautiful, with temperatures alternating between quite warm (up the hill west of Hornell) to cold (it grew windy and cloudy as the day went on). Some highlights were the barber's chair in the middle of the trail and a great lunch stop near Fitzgerald Road with a beautiful view to the southeast. We encountered 3-4" of snow, and ice/mud pools around Karr Road, but these posed no real problems as most in the group had gaiters.

We stuck to our plan of going just a bit north of access 6 on map M9. We found beautiful camping along the creek west of Bully Hill Road. We had a great feast of re-hydrated scalloped potatoes, sausage and vanilla pudding. Temperatures fell well below freezing that night but after nearly 11 miles everyone slept pretty well.

The morning of the second day promised to be clear and reasonably warm as we crossed back over the creek and headed up the trail at a good pace. At the top of Bully Hill State Forest we found 4" of snow, with slippery footing along the puncheons there. We had a very nice lunch break at the south end of Klipnocky State Forest near a quick little creek where we made many liters of water with our Platypus GravityWorks filter (highly recommended, lightweight and fast water purification and storage for groups). We marveled at the beaver activity at the ponds along Bill Morris Road.

By mid-afternoon, some of the scouts were looking ahead on the map and realized that just 2.2 miles past our anticipated camping spot (the bivouac spot in Slader Creek State Forest)...was Bossard's Cabin! All sorts of imagined luxuries awaited us there (a hot tub, pizza and wings!) to say nothing of a shorter last day (to Swain). With a great deal of discussion leading to unanimous agreement and a certain shifting of loads from some of the younger guys to stronger older guys, the group forged on the last 2 miles, crossing a number of functioning electrical fences (ouch!) on rickety crossing ladders and the last, rather cruel hill leading to the cabin.

After nearly 12 miles the group was pretty beat. The most crucial task was to locate water (to drink, not for the hot tub!), and the scouts settled on the pond to the southwest of the cabin. A few scouts were assigned to cook (3 freeze dried meals as appetizers), followed by the main course of mashed potatoes, gravy and canned chicken. A great night's sleep, and we don't think we overly disturbed the critter that seems to live in the rafters of the cabin! We are grateful the cabin was available and we extend our thanks to the Bossards. We were diligent to leave it in better shape than we found it.



John Udall

A good finish in Swain!

Sunday morning's hike was short and sweet, with a great ramble down the hill into Garwoods, and the anticipated flat trail to Swain. Oops, there was that last hill! As we walked along the old Shawmut rail bed, a Norfolk Southern train rolled by below and we thought about the sights and sounds in that valley when steam locos ruled the world.

We are grateful to have the FLT so near and available and thank the volunteers and landowners whose efforts make this resource available to all.

Some Troop 4 scout comments about the FLT:

"Nothing tastes better than a meal cooked outside on an open flame after a long 12 mile hike."

"I really like the FLT! It is a very nice trail that is well made and maintained. I really like the areas that go past and through farms, especially cow pens."

"At Chestnut Lean-to, I have fond memories of making pudding in a plastic bag in the stream and making one-man survival shelters."

I've hiked or backpacked about 150 miles on the FLT and every time I go out I feel so lucky to be able to experience nature and see so many great sights in New York State."

"It is such a relief when you get inside your dry tent and sleeping bag on a rainy night." 🍁

Boy Scout Troop 43 from Apalachin, NY

Alex Shanks, Troop Member

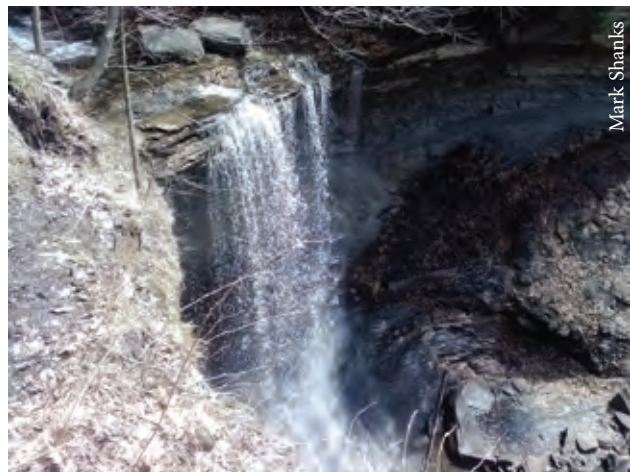
Tinker Falls trip – April 2013 [Map O1 Onondaga Trail, south of Syracuse]

The Troop hiked 5.1 miles in on Saturday and the same miles out on Sunday. They started the trail outside of Tully and hiked past Tinker Falls and up to the [Hemlock] lean-to, where they spent the night. Some group members made it to the lean-to in 5 hrs. Others took 7 hrs to make it. Tinker Falls was a highlight for several boys. A memorable turkey buzzard flew in the valley below the group positioned at the look-out [over Labrador Pond]. 🍁



View to the southeast from the first day's lunch (map M9, near Fitzgerald Road near Hornell).

Bill Miller



Mark Shanks



Jeff ahr

Trail Medicine: Stinging Insect Allergy

Hom Neupane, M.D.

Editor's note: Dr. Neupane presented an excellent grand rounds on this topic last year at the Upstate Medical University, and was kind enough to write an article on this important and timely topic. - Bob Michiel

Are you allergic to stinging insects?

- The stinging insects that are most likely to cause serious allergic reactions, classified in the order Hymenoptera, include bees, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets and fire ants. They are characterized by a stinger, modified egg-laying apparatus at the tail end of their abdominal segment. Only the female can sting.
- Biting insects such as flies, ticks, mosquitoes and spiders can cause allergic reactions, but they tend to be milder.
- Yellow jackets are responsible for most sting reactions across the northern US, whereas wasps and fire ants are the major culprits along the Gulf Coast area.

All reactions to stinging insects are not allergic.

- **A normal reaction** will result in pain, swelling, and redness around the sting site.
- **A large local reaction** will result in swelling that extends beyond the sting site. For example, a person stung on lower limb may have swelling of the entire leg. While it often looks alarming, it is generally no more serious than a normal reaction.
- **The most serious reaction to an insect sting is an allergic one (anaphylaxis).** This is the one that requires immediate medical attention and future management.

How do you develop allergic reaction?

- When most people are stung by an insect, the site develops redness, swelling and itching. Only a few people are actually allergic to insect stings. This means that their immune systems overreact to the insect venom (allergen).
- If you are insect-allergic, after the first sting, your body produces antibodies called Immunoglobulin E (IgE). If you are stung again by the same kind of insect, the venom interacts with this specific IgE antibody, triggering the release of substances that cause an allergic reaction.

How common are the allergic reactions to stinging insects?

- About 2 million Americans have allergies to the venom of stinging insects.
- Many of these individuals are at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions.
- Approximately 100 deaths each year in the U.S. are caused by stinging insect allergies.

What are the symptoms of anaphylaxis?

- Difficulty breathing, wheezing
- Hives - red, itchy and spread to areas beyond the sting site.
- Swelling of the face, throat, or tongue
- Rapid pulse
- Nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, diarrhea.
- Dizziness
- Rapid fall in blood pressure leading to shock, loss of consciousness and cardiac arrest.

How do you identify the stinging insects?

Yellow jackets' nests are usually located underground, but can sometimes be found in the walls of frame buildings, cracks in masonry or woodpiles.

- Yellow jackets are very aggressive and will sting without provocation.
- They are attracted to sweet food /drinks.
- They may be found around garbage cans, leftover food or at outdoor events where food and soft drinks are served.



Honeybees and bumblebees are usually non-aggressive and will only sting when provoked except Africanized honeybees known as "killer bees" that are more aggressive. Wild honeybees live in colonies in hollow trees or cavities of buildings.



Paper wasps' nests are often located under roof overhangs, behind shutters, or in shrubs or woodpiles and dry vents. Wasps are less aggressive and feed on nectar and arthropod prey.



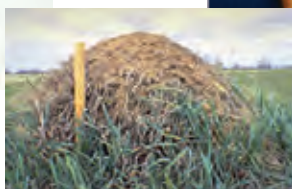
Wasp stinger with drop of venom

Hornets are larger than yellow jackets. Their nests are usually found high above ground, on branches of trees, or in tree hollows. Hornets sting when disturbed, fly at night and are attracted to lights.



Fire ants:

- Found throughout the southeastern US along the Gulf Coast.
- Found in mounds composed of fresh soil.
- Very aggressive especially if their mound is disturbed.
- When stinging, the ant anchors itself by its mandible and deliver multiple stings in a semicircular pattern. A sterile pustule usually forms



How can I prevent an allergic reaction?

- Stay away from their nest.
- Remain calm and move slowly away if there is a stinging insect flying close by.
- Avoid brightly colored, floral and loose-fitting clothing strongly scented lotion and perfume that attract these insects.
- Do not leave food, drink, car window or garbage can open.
- Use closed shoes.
- If you are allergic to insect venom, use MedicAlert (to order call 1-800-ID-ALERT)

What do you do when you are stung?

Immediate treatment

Scrape out the stinger within 30 seconds (in case of honeybee sting) with fingernail or credit card (avoid pulling it out, as this may squeeze and release more venom under the skin. If present, stinger should be removed without squeezing the sac ASAP

Normal Local Reaction: no treatment required



Large Local:

- Remove the venom sac if present by scraping
- Clean with soap and water.
- Cold compress.
- Apply hydrocortisone cream or calamine lotion.
- If needed Benadryl, aspirin or ibuprofen may be used.

How are allergic reactions treated?

Allergic reactions can be fatal within minutes.

1. Remove the venom sac immediately if present.
2. **EpiPen:** if you have one, self-administer as soon as you have early allergic symptoms. Remember this is a rescue medication only.
3. Then get to an emergency room for further vital medications.



Long term treatment:

1. Consult allergist for future management to avoid deadly anaphylaxis.
2. Your allergist will do the skin testing for proper diagnosis.
3. Insect venom allergy shots (Venom Immunotherapy - VT) are very effective (almost 100%) so that you can enjoy your outdoor life with minimal fear. This involves administering gradually increasing doses of venom to stimulate the patient's own immune system to become resistant to a future allergic reaction. 🍁

Our sincere thanks for gifts in honor of:

Harry Clar

from

Lonnie & Suzanne Clar

Finger Lakes Trail Conference - 2013 Fall Camp-Out

Thursday, October 3 to Sunday, October 6

Girl Scout Camp Amahami, 434 Page Pond Rd, Sanford NY 13754, in the foothills of the Catskills

Hosted by the Triple Cities Hiking Club from Binghamton, NY

Questions ???

Please contact:

Larry Blumberg, lblumberg@stny.rr.com (607-797-0912) and/or Roy Dando, rdando@verizon.net (607-785-3141)

Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 3

4:30 pm	Registration opens
6:30 pm	Dinner, available till 8 pm

Friday, October 4

7:00 am	Breakfast and pick up trail lunches, available till 8:30 am
7:30 am	Morning Hike departures begin
12:30 pm	Afternoon Hike departures begin
5:30 pm	Social hour - <i>you may bring alcoholic beverages</i>
6:30 pm	Buffet Dinner
7:30 pm	Ice cream social & Hikers Trivia Contest w/ "DJ" Mike Gaston of Select Sounds

Saturday, October 5

7:00	Breakfast and pick up trail lunches, available till 8:30 am
8:00 am	Hike departures begin
5:30 pm	Social hour - <i>you may bring alcoholic beverages</i>
6:30 pm	Buffet Dinner
7:30 pm	Evening program and guest speaker - "Globe Trotting with Latitude," Jack

VanDerzee travels from the Arctic Circle (Iceland and also Alaska) to the equator (Tanzania). Jack is from Trumansburg, NY, a two-time FLT end-to-end, and a retired math instructor from Ithaca College.

Sunday, October 6

6:30 am	Sunrise nature walk
7:00	Breakfast and pick up trail lunches, available till 8:30 am
9:00 am	Hike departures begin
9 am - 1 pm	FLTC Board of Directors meeting
3 pm	Camp closed

Directions - Camp Amahami is near Deposit, NY, approximately 35 miles east of Binghamton, NY. Approaches are from Binghamton via NY 17/I-86 (McClure Exit #82) or from Bainbridge via I-88 (Bainbridge Exit #8). For GPS, use "434 Page Pond Rd, Sanford, NY" as an approximate street address.

* From NY 17/I-86 (McClure Exit #82) - Turn north on NY 41

Go 3.7 miles, turn right onto N Sanford Rd (may not be a sign for N Sanford Rd)

Go 0.5 miles, continue to the left on N Sanford Rd

Go 0.9 miles, turn left onto Page Pond Rd/Camp Amahami, proceed 2.0 miles up long hill to the camp. Park in the main lot to the left, Fletcher Lodge (registration) will be to the right.

* From I-88 (Bainbridge Exit #8) - Turn east on NY 206

Go 5 miles, turn right onto Cty Rte 20 at sign for Oquaga Creek St Pk.

Go 4.5 miles, turn right onto Eaton Rd (there will be a sign for Oquaga Creek St Pk)

Go 0.4 miles, turn left onto N Sanford Rd

Go 6.1 miles, turn right onto Page Pond Rd/Camp Amahami, proceed 2.0 miles up long hill to the camp. Park in the main lot to the left, Fletcher Lodge (registration) will be to the right.

All cars are to be parked in the camp's main lot. Please do not park in front of Fletcher Lodge.

WELCOME TO THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS!

*...where coyotes howl at the moon from the next ridge top,
where rocks in the trail are so steep my dog needed help
scrambling up, where orange berries on mountain ash trees
decorate the rocky top of Balsam Mountain beneath the fire
tower, where snow can surprise us almost any month and
yellow birch border clear bouldered streams in a land ruled by
porcupines and the caddis fly beloved of trout...*

Hike Schedule

Notes:

- Hikes meet in front of Fletcher Lodge; if needed e-mail Lblumberg@stny.rr.com to arrange for alternate locations
- Hike descriptions are written from west to east, at the leader's discretion hikes may run in the opposite direction

Friday, October 4:

Hike A1: Catskill Mtns, Alder Lake to Balsam Lake Mtn Parking Area

FLTC Maps M31 (eastern tip) & M32 (west half) / very strenuous / 8.1 miles / Leaders: Jill McConnell, Ken Morgan

Meet 7:30 am at Fletcher Lodge

Hike begins at Alder Lake at the far east end of Map M31, before moving on to Map M32. Alder Lake was a boy scout reservation in the 1960's and 1970's, but in the early 1900's it had been Samuel Coykendall's mansion and fishing preserve, the remains of which are still visible today. The trail passes by the Beaver Meadow Leanto and climbs 1520 feet, steeply at times, to the summit of Balsam Lake Mtn where one of the few remaining Catskill fire towers affords a spectacular view. A steep 1200 foot descent then follows down to the Balsam Lake Mtn parking lot.

Hike A2: Catskill Mtns, Beech Hill Rd to Alder Lake

FLTC Map M31 / very strenuous / 7.2 miles / Leaders:

Jack VanDerzee, Kevin Normile

Meet 7:30 am at Fletcher Lodge

Hike begins at the DEC parking area on Beech Hill Rd and immediately begins a steep climb up the 2970 foot Cabot Mtn where one is rewarded with a gorgeous viewpoint. A steep descent is followed by a moderate climb of 2760 foot Touch-Me-Not Mtn before dropping down to Big Pond Rd. Don't worry; there will be some more ups and downs as you make your way over to the endpoint at Alder Lake. The entire hike is within the Middle Mt Wild Forest.

Hike A3: NY Rte 8 to Cannonsville Reservoir Cty Rte 27

FLTC Map M27 (eastern half) / strenuous / 5.2 miles /

Leaders: Rick Heinrich, Jack Sexton

Meet 12:30 pm at Fletcher Lodge

Trail begins with a steady climb and descent down to Steam Mill Rd, followed by a similar climb and descent to Dry Brook Rd. In another half mile you'll come to Dry Brook Leanto, a great spot to grab a snack. Soon you'll reach a

high rocky ridge (great rock formations) before finishing up the hike with a long, steep downhill to the reservoir parking area.

Hike A4: Oquaga Creek St Pk Cty Rte 20 to NY Rte 8

FLTC Map M27 (middle) / easy moderate / 5.9 miles /

Leaders: Barb Nussbaum, Warren Johnsen

Meet 1:00 pm at Fletcher Lodge

This hike begins at Oquaga Creek State Park, follows the blue spur trail past Clark's Pond to its intersection with the FLT, and then turns east, past the Cold Spring Leanto and down to NY Rte 8. The entire hike is within the Arctic China State Forest.

Hike A5: Getter Hill Rd to Shear Rd

FLTC Map M27 (northern half) / moderate / 5.9 miles /

Leaders: Karen Goodman, Donna Coon

Meet 1:00 pm at Fletcher Lodge

This hike starts where the trail leaves Getter Hill Rd outside of Masonville. It climbs steadily in Beales Pond State Forest before levelling off as it passes by the new Getter Hill Leanto on its way to Shear Rd. Turn onto Shear Rd to hike the final 0.3 miles.

Hike A6: Boy Scout Camp Tuscarora

Non-FLT hike / moderate / 3 to 4 miles / Leader: Herb Haake

Meet 2:00 pm at Fletcher Lodge

Located on the other side of NY Rte 17 from Amahami is Boy Scout Camp Tuscarora which also has an attractive network of trails worth checking out. This hike will take you around the camp's swimming and boating lake, up and over the hill to a remote camping site used for special camp programs, and across the NY/Pa border and down to some Pennsylvania Game Lands where an old marshy area is slowly filling back in.



▲ Vista looking southeast from Middle Mountain Lookout (2900') on the Red Trail on Maps M30 and M31 from Holiday and Berry Brook Road to Big Pond Road. Photo by Jackson "Jet" Thomas

Hike A7: Biking -- Approx 25 miles / Leaders: Kathy Cronin and Scott Lauffer

Meet 2:00 pm at Fletcher Lodge

Take an afternoon bike ride starting right at the camp, bike up to and around Oquaga Creek State Park along the rural roads surrounding Camp Amahami.

Hike A8: A Walk around Camp Amahami

Non-FLT hike / easy / 2 to 3 miles / Leader: Donna Miller-Zajac

Meet 3:00 pm at Fletcher Lodge

See the sights of Camp Amahami and learn your way around the grounds ! We'll walk around the lake, visit Amahami's Outpost Leantos, see the various cabin and tent sites used for Amahami's summer and winter programs, and then take a hike up to Amahami's own Page Pond Fire Tower

Saturday, October 5:

Hike B1: Campbell Mountain Rd to Holiday & Berry Brook Rd

FLTC Map M30 (west half) / very strenuous / 8.6 miles /

Leaders: Jeff Oliveri, Luanne Vallese

Meet 8:00 am at Fletcher Lodge

Welcome to the Catskills ! Hike route lies totally within the Delaware Wild Forest and traverses several very scenic ridges, including Brock Mtn at 2760 feet. Enjoy the spectacular viewpoint at Split Rock Lookout near the end of the hike. Car shuttles can be difficult in this part of the state, so be prepared for a fairly lengthy one. Want a shorter option ? If enough interest, a group can hike 6.3 miles from NY Rte 206 to Holiday & Berry Brook Rd (select "B1-short")

Hike B2: Downsville to NY 206

FLTC Maps M29 (east half) & M30 (west half) / strenuous / approx 6-7 miles / Leaders: Rick Roberts, Jill McConnell

Meet 8:30 am at Fletcher Lodge

Starting in downtown Downsville at the Covered Bridge, this hike will follow a new reroute (spring 2013) that bypasses the Campbell Brook Rd / Campbell Mtn Rd roadwalk and replaces it with a trailed hike to where it rejoins the original FLT just west of the Campbell Mtn Leanto. The hike then continues downhill along a beautiful stream to NY 206.

Hike B3: Bear Spring Wildlife Management Area (West Trout Brook Rd) to NY 30

FLTC Map M29 / strenuous / approx 8 miles / Leaders: Jack VanDerzee, Jack Sexton

Meet 8:30 am at Fletcher Lodge

The first half of this hike takes you downhill thru the Bear Spring Wildlife Management Area to the DEC parking lot, while the second half takes you on a new reroute (spring 2013) which connects the DEC parking lot to NY 30, at a point approx 1 mile west of Downsville.

Hike B4: NY Rte 10 to Bear Spring Wildlife Management Area (DEC parking lot)

FLTC Maps M28 (east half) & M29 (west half) / moderately strenuous / 9.3 miles / Leaders: Kevin

Normile, Steve Welte

Meet 8:30 am at Fletcher Lodge

The first portion of this hike is along rural roads as you climb steeply up Houck Mountain Rd in order to reach Tower Rd, which takes you on into the Bear Spring Wildlife Management Area for the long downhill to the DEC parking lot at the intersection of W and E Trout Brook Rds. Watch carefully; you may well see a bear here !

Hike B5: Masonville NY Rte 206 to NY Rte 8

FLTC Map M27 / moderately strenuous due to distance /

11.5 miles / Leaders: Karen Goodman, Donna Coon

Meet 8:45 am at Fletcher Lodge

This hike starts at the Church St pedestrian bridge in Masonville, climbs steeply up Getter Hill Rd and beyond, levels off as it passes by the new Getter Hill Leanto, and then follows rolling hills as it continues past Cold Spring Leanto near the end of the hike at NY Rte 8. Immediately after leaving Masonville, the entire hike is within two State Forests, Beales Pond and Arctic China.

Hike B6: Oquaga Creek St Pk Cty Rte 20 to Cannonsville Reservoir Cty Rte 27

FLTC Map M27 (eastern half) / strenuous / 11.1 miles /

Leaders: Matt Rose, Margie Stackhouse

Meet 8:45 am at Fletcher Lodge

This hike combines two of Friday's hikes, A3 and A4, into one single hike. It begins at Oquaga Creek State Park, follows the blue spur trail past Clark's Pond to its intersection with the FLT, and then turns east past the Cold Spring Leanto and down to NY Rte 8. From here you climb and descend to Steam Mill Rd, followed by a similar climb and descent to Dry Brook Rd. In another half mile you'll come to Dry Brook Leanto, a great spot to grab a late snack. Soon you'll reach a high rocky ridge (great rock formations) before finishing up the hike with a long, steep downhill to the reservoir parking area.

Hike B7: Cannonsville Reservoir Cty Rte 47 to Dryden Rd

FLTC Map M28 (western half) / moderately strenuous /

6.4 miles / Leaders: Barb and Michael Nussbaum

Meet 9:00 am at Fletcher Lodge

This hike begins at the Cannonsville Reservoir near the intersection of Cty Rtes 27 and 47 and then follows a new reroute (summer 2012) that takes the trail off Cty Rte 47. Trail climbs steadily up and over a high point before descending down to Dryden Rd near its intersection with Finch Hollow Rd.

Hike B8: Cannonsville Reservoir Cty Rte 47 to NY Rte 10

FLTC Map M28 (western half) / strenuous due to length /

12 miles / Leader: Scott Lauffer, Ken Morgan

Meet 9:00 am at Fletcher Lodge

This hike, along with hike B7, begin together at the Cannonsville Reservoir near the intersection of Cty Rtes 27 and 47. However, this hike will continue past Dryden Rd utilizing a new section of trail (summer 2013) which takes

you to the intersection of NY Rte 10 and Chase Brook Rd, a couple miles shy of Beers Brook Rd.

Hike B9: Biking -- Meet 9:15 am at Fletcher Lodge
Approx 35 miles / Leaders: Roy & Laurie Dando and Kathy Cronin

Join TCHC bikers Roy, Laurie, and Kathy as you drive your bikes down to the Deposit area to embark on quiet roads for a scenic ride along the Cannonsville Reservoir shore-line. See if you can spot an eagle soaring overhead; it won't be difficult. Options exist for shorter or longer "on your own" rides for those who are interested.

Hike B10: Camp Amahami / Page Pond Fire Tower
Non-FLT hike / easy / approx 4 miles / Leader: Larry Blumberg, Donna Miller-Zajac
Meet 9:45 am at Fletcher Lodge

We'll explore the hiking trails found on the Camp Amahami property, including a pleasant walk around the lake and a lunch-time visit to the Camp Amahami / Page Pond Hill Fire Tower.

Sunday, October 6:

Hike C1: Sunrise nature walk
Camp Amahami / easy / approx 1 to 2 miles (6:30 to 8 am)
/ Leader: Julian Shepherd, PhD
Meet 6:30 am at Fletcher Lodge

Join Binghamton University Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Julian Shepherd for a morning "sunrise" nature walk on the grounds of Camp Amahami. Julian is nationally known for his studies of diseases carried by mosquitos and ticks.

Hike C2: Tucker Rd to NY Rte 12
FLTC Map M24 (south) & M25 (west) / easy to moderate
/ 6.8 miles / Leaders: Kevin Normile, Ken Morgan
Meet 9:00 am at Fletcher Lodge

This hike begins in Ludlow Creek State Forest and quickly passes by the picturesque Ludlow Creek Leanto. Be sure to go down to Ludlow Creek to take a look at the small falls and ripples. Then, take note of the "rock piles" a quarter mile beyond the leanto. A 1.3 mile road walk along the very rural Fred Wilcox Rd follows about 45 minutes later. The hike concludes with nice views looking down on Bowman Creek.

Hike C3: Walkers Corners (Cty Rte 27) to Cooper School House Rd
FLTC Map M25 (east half) / easy to moderate / 6.5 miles / Leader: Larry Lepak, Jenn Woltjen
Meet 9:00 am at Fletcher Lodge

Most of this hike traverses gently rolling terrain through Chenango County's beautiful Wiley Brook State Forest. Be sure to take the blue-blazed spur trail at the 4.7 mile mark of the hike to see the bivouac area next to a DEC-made pond.

Hike C4: Cooper School House Rd to Bainbridge Sunoco Station
FLTC Map M26 (west half) / easy to moderate / 7.1 miles

/ Leaders: Karen Goodman, Donna Coon
Meet 9:15 am at Fletcher Lodge

Hike a series of woods, streams, and farm fields with a nice view about mid-way through the hike. Near Bainbridge take the 2010 reroute which took the trail off busy NY Rte 206 to the west of Bainbridge.

Hike C5: Bainbridge Sunoco to Hauck Dr / Butts Rd intersection

FLTC Map M26 (center section) / moderate / 6.3 miles / Leaders: Scott Lauffer, Jack Sexton
Meet 9:15 am at Fletcher Lodge

Hike begins with a steep climb from NY Rte 206 high above the Susquehanna River (nice views) before leveling off and passing by the Bullthistle Club's "Welcome to Sidote Country" sign. Some rural road walking follows which provides more views over the countryside as you descend down to Butts Rd.

Hike C7: Bird Watching Seminar
Camp Amahami / easy / approx 1 to 2 miles (9:30 to 11 am) / Leader: Julian Shepherd, PhD
Meet 9:30 am at Fletcher Lodge

Join Binghamton University Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Julian Shepherd for a bird watching seminar covering how to choose equipment and field guides. Then discuss how to use binoculars and take a short walk to find birds and impart some pointers on identifying them.

Meals

Meals are served buffet-style in Fletcher Lodge with vegetarian options available.

We are not equipped to deal with food allergies, so please identify concerns on your registration form.

Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be available throughout the weekend.

Thursday dinner

Pizza / Salad / Dessert

Friday continental breakfast

Hot and cold cereals / Fruit / Toasted english muffins

Friday trail lunch

Soft bagels with peanut butter & jelly
Fruit / Trail mix and cookies

Friday dinner

Social hour - Cheese & crackers and other snacks (bring your own "adult" beverages)
Baked Ziti / Meat Balls in sauce
Rolls and butter
Salad
Ice cream social, served during Hiker's Trivia Contest with live DJ

Saturday breakfast

Egg casseroles - vegetable and ham
Quick breads / Hot and cold cereals
Yogurts with choice of toppings

Saturday trail lunch

Make-your-own subs with choice of meats, cheeses, and condiments
Fruit / Trail mix and cookies

Saturday dinner

Social hour - Various soups and other snacks (bring your own "adult" beverages)
Barbeque chicken / Potato / Vegetarian entree
Rolls and butter
Salad

Assorted desserts

Sunday breakfast

French Toast casserole
Quick breads / Hot and cold cereals
Yogurts with choice of toppings

Sunday trail lunch

Make your own wraps with choice of meats, cheeses, and tuna fish
Fruit / Trail mix and cookies

==> Drinking water is available in the kitchen. Please bring your own "refillable" water bottles ! <==



▲ "The Rock" at Split Rock Lookout on FLT Map M30. Fall Campout Hike B1 will pass by Split Rock Lookout, a couple miles west of Holiday and Berry Brook Road.

Accommodation option descriptions at Camp Amahami

All participants must provide their own sleeping bag, pillow, and towel !

(PLEASE NOTE - CELL PHONE SERVICE IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE CAMP)

- For Thursday night (only), participants will be provided a mattress on the floor in the back room of Fletcher Lodge, which is the dining hall and weekend headquarters. Or, you may sleep in your own tent or camper/RV, or in one of the camp's summer tents. Please note the availability of an optional Thursday evening dinner, along with a quick Friday morning breakfast to get you out on the trails bright and early !

- For additional details on accommodations and reservations, please contact Larry Blumberg (LBlumberg@stny.rr.com), 607-797-0912

- **Rowe and Gladstone Troop Houses**, capacity = 34 (without using top bunks)

Large, dorm-style rooms with individual beds and mattresses
Electricity and lights

Shared bathroom / showers / small kitchen and refrigerator inside each Troop House

- **Explorer Cabin**, capacity = 8

Large one-room cabin with individual beds and mattresses

Electricity and lights

Bathroom located in nearby shower house building

- **Rustic cabin** complexes (Robin Hood and Pioneer), total capacity = 42

Seven one-room cabins, each with six individual beds and mattresses

No electricity

Bathroom located in nearby shower house building

- **"Summer Camp" Tents** provided by the camp, up to 8 tents are available

Each tent accommodates 1 to 4 people with individual beds and mattresses

No electricity

Bathroom located in nearby shower house building

- **Bring your own tent**

Set up your tent in main camp area on grassy lawn near bathroom / shower house building

- **Bring your own Camper or RV**

There will be an area set aside where Campers and RV's can be set up. May use the bathrooms and showers in either the Troop Houses or in the shower house building. No hook-ups provided.

Other camping and lodging options:

Oquaga Creek State Park offers tent sites and cabins. See description and reservation info at <http://nysparks.com/parks/27/details.aspx>. Motels and bed and breakfasts can be found in the Deposit, Bainbridge, Sidney, and Binghamton areas.

Finger Lakes Trail Conference - 2013 Fall Camp-Out

Thursday, October 3 to Sunday, October 6

Hosted by the Triple Cities Hiking Club from Binghamton, NY

Registration due no later than Friday, September 20, 2013 . Refunds handled on a case-by-case basis only

Register one of two ways:

* Hardcopy -- mail w/ check payable to "Triple Cities Hiking Club" to TCHC, PO Box 22, Johnson City NY 13790

* On-line -- register and pay at www.fltconference.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone(s) _____

Email(s) _____

Emergency contact (name / phone) _____

Special needs we should be aware of ? _____

Registration Fee _____ x \$8 \$ _____

(Includes commemorative Map Set M24-31 & admission to Friday evening "trivia contest" / ice cream social !)

Meals:

Thursday
Dinner _____ x \$8 \$ _____

Friday
Breakfast _____ x \$5 \$ _____

Trail lunch _____ x \$7 \$ _____

Dinner _____ x \$10 \$ _____

Saturday
Breakfast _____ x \$7 \$ _____

Trail lunch _____ x \$7 \$ _____

Dinner _____ x \$15 \$ _____

Breakfast _____ x \$7 \$ _____

Trail lunch _____ x \$7 \$ _____

Lodging (see descriptions, above)

Thursday night _____ x \$10 \$ _____

Friday / Saturday nights (one price covers both nights)

Troop House (*) _____ x \$40 \$ _____

Explorer Cabin (*) _____ x \$30 \$ _____

Rustic Cabins _____ x \$20 \$ _____

"Summer Camp" tents _____ x \$15 \$ _____

Bring your own tent / camper / RV _____ x \$15 \$ _____

(*) Please check for availability by contacting

Larry Blumberg (lblumberg@stny.rr.com), 607-797-0912

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please indicate Hike # choice for each person registering:

Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____

Please read and sign:

Those persons enjoying the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) and/or activities sponsored by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC) or any clubs conducting activities on behalf of, or in support of the FLTC, accept full personal responsibility for their own well being, or, for the well being of a minor when acting in the capacity of parent or guardian. Further, users of the FLT accept and understand that hiking is a rigorous activity often conducted in rugged outdoor conditions subject to variations in weather and terrain conditions which may involve the risk of injury or death, and, that we are fully responsible for our own safety and selecting activities that are consistent with our physical capabilities.

PRINT NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE ____ / ____ / ____

PRINT NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE ____ / ____ / ____

Article removed at author's request

Article removed at author's request

Cobb Chronicles 2013: Learning from our Trees

Story and Photos By Irene Szabo

In 1998 Howard Beye made the excellent suggestion to a new permitting landowner, John Cobb, who had complained about his property taxes, that he donate the land to the FLTC. We could apply for tax free status and he would receive a nice deduction that year. Since then we have owned this mostly wooded 45 acres in NE Cattaraugus County, a few miles east of the ski resort town of Ellicottville. Not only does the main trail travel through its maple, ash, and black cherry younger forest, but there is an additional blue loop trail that meanders among the oldest trees at the top of our hill, and includes a campsite.

I have been the trail caretaker there ever since, while the FLTC treasurer files paperwork every year to retain our non-taxable status as a not-for-profit educational organization.

There is a level lane crossing our hillside below those topmost woods, which was created by a logging company in the late 90's with our permission, to remove logs from our neighbors to the east, since several properties in that area have no good road access due to a railroad running through a swamp along its serious creek. This winter Jared Kramer of Kramer Forest Management Services contacted the FLTC again for a similar permission, and proposed that we meet on site to discuss a potential harvest of our own lumber.

On February 25th Jared Kramer and Jeff Wisor stomped around the top end of the Cobb place with me through at least 8" of dense snow, pointing out those trees that are worth harvesting, those that should be removed to give more light and space to more valuable trees for future harvests, and several large ash that should be taken before they die of one of the diseases threatening ash lately. It was obvious to me that they were avoiding so-called high grading, which takes ALL of the most valuable trees right away, leaving little future value in the forest and no seed trees of any decent age. The recommended trees were widely scattered, seldom right on the trail, and a contract with the logger could include the

provision that he remove tops from the trail daily.

Jared estimated that the FLTC could earn over \$15,000 while improving our woodlot's future. The process with a forestry consultant has him prepare proposals for loggers to bid on, then he administers the actual harvest with the logger whose bid won, and in this case, he was sweetening the pie with three adjacent properties for bid. He gets paid a modest percentage of our sale.

In March the board approved the project, so on April 9th we three met again on the top of the hill, this time mercifully almost free of snow on a warm and sunny day. It was amazing to watch two men practiced at "timber cruising," striding from tree to tree as they looked around for likely prospects for one of three paint marks: vertical stripe, which tells the logger to just drop it, horizontal stripe, cut it for a firewood sale, and the most attractive financially, a round spray blob indicating a valuable harvest tree. Those also have a small splotch of paint at the very base, so that the logger cannot take unmarked trees to increase what HE then can sell, beyond what the consultant intended. That last bottom splotch will still be there on the stump, proving that it was a proper tree to cut.



▲ Maple marked for harvest, with little mark on what will be the stump so that an unscrupulous logger cannot take more trees than intended.

Each of them, Jared and Jeff, walked up a likely tree, whacked it with a sturdy yardstick to "hear" it, listening for hidden rot inside, then measured its diameter with a quick glance at the yardstick. Height they estimated, then wrote down the size of every harvest tree in little notebooks, so that all of the marked trees can be added up to make an accurate volume proposal for the loggers who bid it.

The estimated volume to be taken in this harvest:

	Board Feet	Trees
Hard (sugar) maple	10,530	63
Black cherry	10,380	42
Ash	14,043	113
Soft (red) maple	482	4

A board foot is 12" square x 1" thick.



▲ February visit to upper Cobb property, Jared Kramer left and Jeff Wisor, our consulting foresters.

A request for bids was sent out to dozens of logging companies, and Gutchess Lumber offered the best price on all three adjacent properties, which is good for us for purposes of coordination and control of conditions, since the logs from all three will cross our property. The FLTC will receive \$23,641 less 7% for the forestry consultant. Once the contract is signed with Gutchess, who has liability insurance, workmen's compensation, etc., they will have 18 months to complete the harvest. Actual cutting on our place will be over within a couple of weeks, with signs at each trail entry to the property warning hikers of activity ahead, while transportation of logs across our lane will be ongoing with neighbors' logs.

Please don't pull down the pink plastic ribbons delineating the permitted log removal lane, or worry that there are round red-orange paint marks on some big ash blaze trees along the white trail. Their blazes will be replaced on neighbor trees long before anything is cut.

Chris McLellan: remember how we used to giggle at ash jokes during the first cross-county hike series back in the mid-90's when you were a teenager? You're probably too grown up for that now, of course.

Once that brief window of activity on "Cobb's 45" begins, remember that you can hear them working, but the loggers probably cannot hear you since they'll be wearing ear protection, and they'll be watching what they're doing, not the trail for somebody about to get in the way. Do not interfere with their work, since they belong there under contract!

Our longterm mission will be better served by this harvest, with both current cash and improvement of our property for the future. Within ten years, these improvements could enhance our trees' value enough for yet another harvest, according to Jared. The property received a similar style of modest harvest in the earliest 90's, but had recovered from that one nicely, so that the woods were thoroughly appealing when we got there in the late 90's. This will be FAR from a clear-cut!

Documentation projects I anticipate:

Pictures of harvest, before and after, at chosen spots

Pictures of these woods over the next ten years, taken about the same date and time of day, from chosen and listed spots, to document the shade level, regrowth of trees, elimination of harvest scars on the ground.

Measurements of several chosen valuable trees, to chart their growth over ten years. How I wish I had thought of that back in 1998 so that we could watch how some of them improve faster with reduced crowding!

While these anticipated delights may not keep some of you awake at night, I'll be tickled if I can still climb that hill when

www.fingerlakestrail.org

I'm 78 to keep this project going. Look out, or I'll make you sit through a slide show of my pictures of the clear-cut regrowth north of Dumack Rd. (1991 harvest) on the far right side of Map M12 or the post-harvest (1998) progress in the red pines on Map B3...

Enlightening note: in late April I was fortunate to attend a walk at The Nature Conservancy's property that tops the hill between Hemlock and Canadice Lakes in Ontario County and connects the two, when Region 8 DEC Forester John Gibbs was along with us. As we looked down the slope toward Canadice, covered with middle-aged white and red oak, he told us that this forest cannot regenerate to oak without significant management effort. If we do not interfere and just let nature have her way, under present conditions, that slope could someday show nothing but red maple.

John explained that shade intolerant species will not grow from seedlings in that well-shaded forest, so black cherry and oak cannot succeed without *something* creating sunny openings, whether that is fire or intermittent clear-cuts or freak wind storms.

About twenty years ago now, the oak forests at the top of Hi Tor Wildlife Management Area on our map B1 near Naples were suffering from gypsy moth defoliation. So the DEC clear-cut patches of the trees, both to salvage the oak lumber while it was still worthwhile and to create small sunny areas for possible oak regeneration, which IS working. These also formed temporary islands of different vegetation ideal for wildlife species that don't thrive in dark forests, like grouse.

We encourage our readers to walk the loop on the Cobb property (Map CL, available via online shopping or from our office, or at the box on the back of the trailhead bulletin board) several times in the near future, to see conditions both before and after our harvest. Then come back again in a few years to see how quickly the forest rebounds. I'll be reporting further developments on this, our largest FLTC property by far. 🍁



▲ Jared measuring a tree's "dbh" (diameter breast height) while performing the "timber cruise" in order to estimate harvest volume.

Schuyler County Hike Series Update

Jackson "Jet" Thomas

The 2013 Hike Series, "Hiking the Heart of the Finger Lakes," continues to ramble across Schuyler County. As of May, 17.5 miles (35%) of the county have been completed, with four hikes remaining.

April's hike had 87 hikers divided into eight groups according to hiking speed, two more than the usual number, for we have an abundance of Medium Fast and Medium hikers this year. After May's hike with 78 hikers, we realized that the two Medium Fast groups need to be divided into three, and so, beginning in June, we will have a ninth group, named Spicy Fast, that will be positioned between the pace of the Fast and Medium Fast groups. I am very grateful to the 18 people who either volunteered or accepted my invitation to lead or sweep for a hiking group in this year's series. Their leadership skills have been a blessing to me each month.

Shirley and I decided to expand "Where's Waldo" into a contest this year in addition to the challenge of finding Waldo. The only clue given to the hikers is that what they are seeing

relates to that month's hike. Prizes will be awarded at the Picnic and Awards Ceremony in September.

The busing is provided by the Watkins Glen Central School District and has been superb. The hikers appreciate being able to leave together due to the rental of two buses each month, and Shirley and I enjoy being able to leave for home a little earlier after the last group reaches their vehicles at the trailhead at the end of a long day.

Jim Loomis' help with the GoogleGroup has been incredible, Stephanie and Jen, especially, have provided strong support from the FLTC's Office, Dick Hubbard and Pat Monahan have shared their organizational leadership with me, Trail Stewards have spent countless hours grooming the trail for our 119 registrants, friends have volunteered to help Shirley and me both with the pre-hike and the SAG wagons each month, and Jon Bowen and Karen Serbonich, my predecessors for the last six years, have been invaluable for their guidance.

The Hike Plot is being changed for June and September.

Instead of parking in Clute Park for those two hikes, we will use part of Wal-Mart's parking lot across the street from Clute Park. Hiking distances are unaffected. The final change involves the Picnic and Awards Ceremony that follows September's hike, which is being moved from Clute Park to Smith Memorial Park, nine miles north of Watkins Glen on the eastern shore of Seneca Lake off NY 414. Specific instructions, including maps, will be given in my pre-hike notes for those two months.

And remember:

Being in the woods is always a glorious day! 🍁

◀ Bridget Bender at Ebenezer's Crossing of Glen Creek just before it enters Watkins Glen State Park.



Jackson "Jet" Thomas

FLT News Submission Guidelines

Without your material, we cannot have a magazine, so we eagerly request your submission of pictures and text for every issue. Please send both to Irene Szabo at treeweenie@aol.com, or 6939 Creek Rd., Mt. Morris NY 14510.

In all cases, please supply photographer's name.

Front cover photo candidates: prefer vertical format, and if digital, at least 300 dpi or greater than 3000 pixels in one dimension, AND we are always looking for great cover photos! Inside pictures look much better with one

dimension over 1000 pixels, too, preferably 2000.

Next deadline for Vol. 52, No. 2 is **23 August 2013**, except for Dick and Pat, whose deadline is August 10th.

Remember that 900 words equal approximately one page of dense text, so very few articles should exceed 1800 words in this size of magazine.

Thank you!

Your volunteer editor, Irene (585/658-4321)

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, July 27, 2013

Sidote Hike, FLT Map 23

Leader:

Warren Johnsen leading long hike.

wjohnsen@roadrunner.com or 607-373-3054

Bruce and Donna Coon leading short hike.

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM.

Hike will start around 9:20 AM. (We hope to have Ed Sidote at the trailhead.)

Meet:

Meet at the Perkins Pond Parking area on Map M23, northwestern Chenango County, between South Otselic and North Pharsalia: from junction of NY 23 with County 42, go north 1.8 miles up 42 to what is labelled Planck Rd. on our map. Park at entrance to Planck (signed Plank), but do not block it, across from pond. Do not drive on Planck.

Long Hike is 9 Miles, on DEC Trail, the FLT, and seasonal roads. Moderate hike with relatively easy climbs. We'll pass by two ponds, two small water crossings, and have lunch at the Perkins Lean-to. We plan on having a sag wagon for the "Long Hike."

Warren Johnsen is the hike leader on the 9 mile hike.

We might offer two speed groups for the 9 mile adventure, moderate and slightly slower...we do not plan on racing through the woods!

Short Hike is just under 3 miles, on DEC Trail, the FLT, and seasonal road. (Very little elevation involved.) Hike leaders are Donna & Bruce Coon. Snacks and drinks should be sufficient for the short hike.

No car shuttle is necessary; both hikes start and end at the same place.

Remember:

Long Hike, bring your lunch, in addition to snacks & drinks.

Sag Wagon will be set up only for the long hike.

Short Hike, bring snacks and drinks.

Looking forward to seeing you.
Warren R. Johnsen
aka Trail Dawg



FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013

Erv Markert Fall Hike

Title of Hike:

Highland Forest/FLT/Onondaga Trail/North Country Trail Map O2

Leader:

Karen Goodman,

KGoodman@sny.rr.com or (607) 648-3005

Hike Description:

Located south and east of Syracuse on NY Rte 80 in Fabius, NY, Highland Forest is an Onondaga County park renowned for its exquisite network of x-country ski trails. With the North Country Trail passing through the center of the park, we'll hike along this section of trail and combine it with other park trails to create a loop hike of approx 10 miles. Shorter loops will be made available for those who wish.

Admission to the park is \$1 per person (payable at the park office); there is no admission charge for those under 21. Please visit the Highland Forest website at <http://onondagacountyparks.com/highland-forest/> for more information about this park.

Meet:

Park office entrance (Skyline Lodge) at 10 am. Those in the Binghamton area can carpool with the Triple Cities Hiking Club by meeting at 8:30 am behind Denny's on Upper Front St (US 11), north of Binghamton.

Directions to Highland Forest:

Take I-81 Exit 14 (Tully / NY Rte 80) and go east on NY Rte 80 for approximately 11 miles before turning right at the sign for Highland Forest. At the top of the hill, the entry road will curve to the left and into the parking lot for the Park office (Skyline Lodge).

Please pay your \$1 admission fee at the office; the desk is just inside the door to Skyline Lodge. We'll gather outside of Skyline Lodge (assuming good weather) or

inside Skyline Lodge if inclement.

A Lawsuit Against NY's Office of Parks for the Benefit of Hiking Trails

Co-Authors Bruce Matthews, Executive Director - North Country Trail Association

Irene Szabo, Editor - FLT News

Photos by Al Larmann

As an organization dedicated to the administration of the Finger Lakes Trail, the FLTC has had highly varied relations with the state and local agencies which manage public lands our trail crosses. In the bad old days before communication improved, there could be a state forest harvest that obliterated a mile of trail, with no warning. Or a Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) forester in one area would insist that HIS trails would all be multi-use, opening the FLT to considerable bicycle traffic, at the same time that every other DEC region in the state was coming around to a position of protection of our footpath as only that. Fortunately these examples on DEC lands are fading away into memory as the state's policies became more uniform throughout the state and less subject to personal fiefdoms of unique taste; current statewide DEC policies value the FLT as a long distance FOOTPATH.

The NY Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), or in common parlance, "Parks," has been subject to the same variances from region to region. Fortunately, despite minor administrative discrepancies, our trail has remained valued and protected in the several state parks the FLT uses, like Allegany, Letchworth, Watkins Glen, Robert Treman, Bowman Lake, etc.; that is, until recently.

The North Country National Scenic Trail, on its way across NY to Vermont, leaves the FLT system where the Onondaga Trail ends and the trails of the Central NY Chapter of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) begin, in Madison County, southeast of Syracuse. CNY Chapter has had a challenging task, trying to find



▲ BEFORE: skinny footpath cut through honeysuckle and young trees on the old Lehigh Valley railbed.

a route for a hiking trail through the relatively civilized area north and south of the Thruway, Barge Canal, and a major railroad. They were aided in this task by the existence of the railbed of a 1967-abandoned branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, from Cortland northeast toward Canastota,

patches of which had not yet disappeared into farmland. In Cazenovia, several scenic stream-side miles of the LVRR are owned by the Cazenovia Preservation Foundation, where the chapter was permitted to put the trail route, especially when they agreed to find funding and manpower to repair several major washed out culverts.

North of the CPF-owned railbed, ownership had reverted to farms where the right-of-way had become a honeysuckle tangled hedgerow for a few miles, until it reached a segment owned by OPRHP for over twenty years, south of Canastota. Parks hadn't done anything with these wooded miles, so they had become the playground of ATV's, which had exacerbated erosion due to poor drainage and broken culverts. With a permit from Parks, CNY again worked miracles to repair drainage problems along this man-made shelf cut into a steep hillside, arranging grants that paid for serious repairs. It

made a lovely walk, and provided one hike for us during the 2001 NCTA annual conference we hosted in Cazenovia.

However, once other user groups saw what CNY Chapter had reclaimed from the once-crappy railbed, they all wanted to play there, too. A local group

of horse riders agitated with both the county planner's office and local Parks administrators for permission to ride there, despite the Chapter's assertion that it was too wet an area, and would be subject to damage if opened to horse traffic. While it was too short a segment to become a true "destination trail" for equestrians, one that would bring into the county visitors from other places as Madison County promoters dreamed, Parks capitulated, creating a truly vaporous "agreement" whereby the local horse riders would help with maintenance. You all know how well that worked out.

Then the snowmobilers wanted to use it, too, to add to their already incredible system of miles of trail all over upstate NY. This time, permission was granted without much input from CNY, but the immediate result that next winter was a lot of unpermitted chain sawing to make the trail wider, and unlawful entrance trails from adjacent properties. The state tore down the nice expensive gates and usage signage that the Chapter had installed with donated materials so that Parks could install their own standard-issue gates.

So the hints were all there, that both county and local Parks administrators did not place much value on a hiking-only trail or its users, whether it was a certified piece of a National Scenic Trail or not. But even battle-scarred volunteers from the CNY Chapter were astounded to find in November of 2011 that backhoes, bulldozers, and chain saws were ripping into their adopted trail south of the wooded hillside segment. The portion of the railroad ROW involved was one of those honeysuckle choked hedgerows, where volunteers had clipped out a skinny footpath amongst bushes and under young trees, narrow but thoroughly useable.

Yes, it was Parks who had granted the snowmobile club permission to bulldoze trees, bushes, and dirt to create a 25-foot wide highway where there had been a little footpath, and all this next to a fishing stream, without ever mentioning the changes coming to the host trail group, the CNY Chapter! Mere words do not suffice...

Believing this to be an environmental violation as well as a clear abrogation of the North Country National Scenic Trail's non-motorized status, CNY Chapter leaders enlisted NCTA HQ staff in an effort to stop the destruction. Discussions with Parks' regional office were fruitless, so NCTA appealed to OPRHP's central administration in Albany. In early December, Parks agreed to halt the work while they conducted a fact-finding initiative.



▲ AFTER: one day of bulldozer work by a snowmobile club, permitted by our state Office of Parks.

There is a statute of limitations under NY State Environmental Quality Review Law (SEQR) within which complaints must be filed. Unfortunately, as the winter dragged on Parks' fact-finding effort appeared mired to the point where NCTA would lose any opportunity for legal recourse under SEQR. Thus in late March 2012, NCTA filed a lawsuit seeking both to reverse Parks' actions and to reclaim the damage done to the trail, and to affirm Parks' commitment to the NCNST as a long distance hiking trail. NCTA's complaint was based on two points:

1. Violation of SEQR in not conducting an adequate environmental impact assessment, and
2. Violation of the National Trails Act in permitting an activity not allowed under the Act.

This was a courageous step, not taken lightly by the NCTA's Board of Directors. In the best of circumstances lawsuits cost thousands of dollars, funding NCTA does not have. But for the first time NCTA drew a line in the sand in court on behalf of hikers and those preferring quiet recreation. NCTA's citizen-stewards as well as the NCNST had been marginalized and disrespected, and NCTA stood up on their behalf. The Finger Lakes Trail Conference and the Adirondack Mountain Club's Onondaga Chapter as well as the CNY Chapter all stepped up to help meet the financial need.

The legal team felt NCTA's case was solid on the SEQR violation. OPRHP had issued a permit to the snowmobile club without any planning, notification, or due process. NCTA's case based on the National Trails System Act was less concrete and likely would be plowing new ground in case law, setting a precedent for interpreting the Act not only in this case but for all national trails. Caution dictated careful advancement since the outcome could affect other national trails. Further attempts to negotiate with Parks were met with a stone wall: "no negotiation until the suit is dropped."

In debating the merits of continuing the case, aside from the obvious cost burden, NCTA assumed that while it was likely to win on the SEQR violation, all that would be gained would be forcing the State to go through the motions required by SEQR, with little guarantee the NCNST would be returned to its previous status as a primitive footpath. In fact, given local political pressures and the strength of the snowmobile lobby there was a strong likelihood the NCNST would be opened to snowmobiling anyway! Believing that NCTA had accomplished as much as was likely possible under the circumstances, the Board of Directors agreed in August 2012 to discontinue the suit.

Meanwhile, it is worth noting that Parks' own forces spent many days during summer 2012 cleaning up the damage done by the snowmobile club's destruction, chipping the bulldozed trees to make a new surface along the railbed, hoping to avoid erosion.

What remains, now that the legal proceedings are over, is to leverage this new attention we've gained to create a mutually respectful environment where the NCNST's position is validated and secure. In November 2012, Matthews and new National Park Service Superintendent Mark Weaver met with OPRHP Deputy Director Tom Alworth to affirm respective positions and begin a dialog intended to provide the foundation

for a new era of collaboration. Much remains to be accomplished, but clearly NCTA is now operating from a much stronger position than before. Still, it has yet to be determined whether any of the ten miles of formerly NPS-certified NCNST in Madison County will remain a footpath. This discussion continues, but at a level much higher and considerably farther from the local politics previously controlling it. As of this writing there have been no permits issued for snowmobiling or any other uses.

While discussions are ongoing, in the absence of permits, the trail is open to hiking and CNY volunteers must call a Parks contact each time they want to perform maintenance.


Another meeting in Albany took place this May, when Matthews and Weaver again met with Alworth and his staff to discuss future actions designed to increase communication and to prevent future mishaps as happened in Madison County. For one thing, the perception is that Albany is exercising more oversight over regional activities, which should help.

Use of Freedom of Information laws enabled us to access communications that clearly demonstrated a pattern of collusion, political intrigue and the deliberate and pre-meditated disenfranchisement of NCTA's citizen stewards in Madison County that is an embarrassment to the public agencies involved.

Furthermore, Alworth's staff has been directed to inventory locations throughout the state where the NCT/FLT are on Parks' lands, in order to come up with a statewide policy that should prevent local anomalies, by the end of this summer. Of course, even though the NY Statewide Trails Plan, published by Parks, clearly includes the NCNST, and Parks has been an active participant in all activities of the State Trails Council for decades now where the North Country Trail has been discussed among trail users of all stripes since our own Erv Markert's days there (1980's!), the current top few people in Parks were unaware of this trail until now. So it will remain our job, no matter how much policy is written down, to keep our slice of the recreational world in front of all agency personnel through all future job reassignments and retirements!

If we don't stand up for what's right for our National Trails, who will? If we don't aggressively advocate for and defend outdoor pursuits representing the quiet end of the recreational spectrum, who will?

From Neil Woodworth, executive director of the Adirondack Mountain Club:

"Hiking trails are unique among outdoor recreation destinations... We should not be sacrificing the rare and unique for the commonplace. New Yorkers deserve better." 



◀ The following summer, after the state had spent considerably money repairing the damage, the old trail is still incredibly wide. So should the CNY chapter be forced to maintain all that width? As Al Larmann said, "An apt term for the result is 'road.'"

Great Eastern Trail Thru-Hikers Coming Soon

Pat Monahan

Jo "Someday" Swanson and "Hillbilly Bart" Houck are nearing the end of their thru-hike on the Great Eastern Trail (GET). They started their journey in Alabama on January 10, 2013. On May 20, they crossed the Maryland/Pennsylvania border with only two states (yes, states) left to go. I can hardly imagine the daunting task of hiking the boulders and uphill climbs on a day hike in PA. Their first few days in Pennsylvania have been plagued with heat and humidity while their spirits remain high. They plan to be in Woolrich, Pa., on June 1st (National Trails Day) and then New York within a few weeks afterward. The pair will find nothing more than a road sign at the NY/PA border noting the name change from one isolated dirt road to the next. Once in NY, they will begin hiking the Crystal Hills Trail for approximately 55 miles. Most of the trail is currently open to the public but these two will have an opportunity to walk the flagline on a section near the Erwin Wildlife Management Area to get back onto the marked trail. The FLT is the host to the northern terminus for the GET in Steuben County at the intersection of the Moss Lean-to on maps CH1 and M13. I am sure there will be quite a celebration in honor of their accomplishment.

I had the chance to meet "Someday" and "Hillbilly Bart" at the Great Eastern Trail Association Board Meeting on April 27 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Their journey is not only about the trail itself, but also about all of the wonderful people along the way. The two shared some of their story during our meeting and I was pleasantly surprised to hear details of

being on the trail for nearly four months. It is truly an interesting story and I encourage you to go to their website (www.GETHiking.net) to read about their journey.

Footnote: A few years ago, a single thru-hiker made an attempt at hiking the entire GET but had to bail out. Additional information about the Great Eastern Trail is found at www.GreatEasternTrail.net. 🍁



▲ "Hillbilly Bart" Houck, Jo "Someday" Swanson are aiming to be the first successful thru-hikers of the Great Eastern Trail, south to north, and should be in New York soon. Pat Monahan met them at a GET meeting in Chattanooga, TN.

Adopt a Piece of our New Catskills Trails!

Rick Roberts' introduction to the great new routes he's been developing to replace long road walks in the western Catskills on page 4 should make us wonder who is going to TAKE CARE of all those new forested miles. Rick is already trying to tend 30 miles himself, yet during the first week of June alone an Alley Cat crew roughed out miles and miles of MORE trail. There is NO ONE signed up yet to shower love and attention on these new trails, yet there are hikes scheduled on them during this October's fall campout!

The crews are doing rough clearing only, just because there are only so many people, only so much time. Chain saw and initial clearing will be done, but the finer touches remain

undone, while paint blazing and sign installation beg for volunteers, too. Somebody with patience needs to clean up stubs and stabbers at ground level, whack some more evil roses, tidy intruding branches from the sides, remove cut branches lying on the treadway.

Adopt your very own mile or two. Rick has relatively level stretches on abandoned railroad beds, or he can challenge you with hills and rocks. PLEASE contact Rick to sign up. Think of it as an opportunity for a couple's weekend away in the mountains ... a sweaty one, with happy sore muscles.

Contact Rick at hikerrick2000@yahoo.com or 607/746-9694.

Trail Topics: “Trail Sponsor News”

Steve Catherman, Vice President of Trail Maintenance



Caleb Mammen from Buffalo is the new Sponsor of the last 3.6 miles of trail on Map M4 between Access 4 on County Route 16 and Access 5 on Kingsbury Hill Road near Franklinville in Cattaraugus County. Caleb expressed an interest in volunteering in western New York this spring and was accommodated by current Sponsors **Debra and Joe Borer**, who wanted to reduce their miles of trail maintenance. The Borers are still very active, however, maintaining the first three miles of trail on Map M5. Thank you, Caleb, for getting involved!

Toby Beers from Hammondsport is the new co-Sponsor of the lovely 2.6 mile Mitchellsville Gorge trail, one of our featured FLT Passport hikes, beginning at Access 5 on County Route 13 and ending at Access 6 on State Route 54 near Hammondsport in Steuben County. Toby and his daughter Alevea live right across the road from the trailhead on County Route 88 and have spent a lot of time hiking this section of the FLT, so it was a natural fit for him. Current Sponsor **Bob Plaskov** has known Toby's family for many years and was happy to have his help on this heavily used, popular stretch of trail. Welcome, Toby!

Boy Scout Troop 2674 and their Scoutmaster **Rick Evans** from Watkins Glen have agreed to adopt both the Queen Catharine Marsh Loop Trail and the Montour Falls Historic Loop Trail in Schuyler County. The Queen Catharine Trail is an 8 mile loop around the Village of Watkins Glen and the Catharine Creek Wildlife Management Area that utilizes a portion of the Catharine Valley Trail (CVT). The Montour Falls Trail is a 5.5 mile loop around the Village of Montour Falls that also follows part of the CVT, featuring more than twenty historic landmarks and passing through Havana Glen Park. Many thanks go out to the Scouts and **Caryl Sutterby**, the Coordinator of the Friends of the Catharine Valley Trail, for making this happen!

Trail Sections Available!

*The northern half of the **Interloken Trail**, located within the Finger Lakes National Forest in Schuyler County, is currently in need of a Sponsor. Beginning at the Blueberry Patch Campground on Picnic Area Road and extending just over 7 miles along the eastern ridge line above Seneca Lake to Parmenter Road, this portion of the branch trail skirts several wildlife ponds at elevations approaching 1900'. Many thanks to Sponsors **Jim and Linda Ziemba** for their years of service in the National Forest. Please contact Regional Trail Coordinator **Lynda Rummel** at ljrassoc@roadrunner.com if you are interested in maintaining all or part of this trail segment.

*Two brand new sections of trail on Map M28 adjacent to the west branch of the Delaware River and the **Cannonsville Reservoir** in Delaware County should be ready for adoption by the time this article goes to press. The first section begins at Beers Brook Road just south of Walton and follows the path of the old Ontario and Western Railroad grade for about 8 miles to its junction with State Route 268. The second section starts at State Route 268 and follows portions of current and abandoned County Route 10 and Dryden Road for about 2 miles, also including an additional 2 miles of off-road trail, before ending at Finch Hollow Road. Both of these trails are being constructed as part of Alley Cat project #1 this June and lie predominantly within the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Water Supply Reservation. Please contact Regional Trail Coordinator **Rick Roberts** at hikerrick2000@yahoo.com for more information.

*A 4.5 mile section of the **Bristol Hills Trail** on Map B2, beginning at Access 7 on Brink Hill Road just east of High Tor Wildlife Management Area and ending at Access 8 on County Route 18 in Yates County, will be available for adoption this summer. Featuring views from over 2000' of the Cohocton wind farm project to the west and a spectacular view to the south from the “jump-off” down into Italy Valley, this trail has a lot to offer. There are two segments which require monthly mowing! I want to thank outgoing Sponsor and former FLT President **David Marsh** for his years of hard work on this section of trail. Well done, David! Please contact **Tom and Donna Noteware**, the Regional Trail Coordinators for the Bristol Hills Trail, at noteware@empacc.net if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity. 🍁

Contact: Steve Catherman
stevec@roadrunner.com
607-569-3453

We are looking for a new trail sponsor for the 3.7 mile section on Map M6 from AP4 to AP 5, a short way southwest of Letchworth State Park. It is fairly level and includes a beautiful walk in woods along Wiscoy Creek. The current sponsor has this section of trail in great shape and would be willing to help the new sponsor get started. Short section of mowing required!

If you are interested please contact Regional Coordinator Marty Howden at 585-567-8589 or at howser51@yahoo.com. There is also a short section of trail on Map M6 from AP5 to Wiscoy Rd., 2.1 miles. This could be added to the above section or remain separate for a new sponsor. One nice level section of woods, then a rural roadwalk.

Trail Topics: NYS DEC Supports FLT as Single Use Foot Path

Lynda Rummel, Vice President of Trail Quality

Perhaps you have seen the NYS DEC's (Dept. of Environmental Conservation) new trail marking disk that identifies the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) as an official NYS DEC Foot Trail posted on a tree somewhere along the shared 420-mile FLT/NCNST? If not, get ready: The NYS DEC NSNST Foot Trail disk will be posted every half mile or so along the FLT/NCNST in state forests in the western and central parts of the state (DEC Regions 7, 8 and 9), including, as of the fall of 2014, Cattaraugus Co., and will supplement other signs, decals and disks already in use on the FLT/NCNST.

This grayish-blue disk, only slightly larger than our FLT trail marking disks, is actually a really big deal, because it reflects a solidified statewide NYS DEC commitment to long-distance, single-use hiking trails. Although there isn't a similar disk for other FLT System trails that pass through state forests, the DEC's commitment applies explicitly to the FLT.

This commitment is expressed in the Long-Distance Foot Trails [P201-2] section of Chapter 5 of the *NYS DEC Strategic Plan for State Forest Management* [Outside the Adirondack Forest Preserve], where the DEC promises that **"To the fullest extent possible DEC will accommodate the FLT as a single use hiking trail."** Exceptions are to be "very limited" and the DEC may make the FLT multiple use *only when* (1) forest management needs to relocate the FLT *temporarily*, or (2) forest management determines that some overlap with other kinds of trails is absolutely unavoidable because of congestion, or (3) forest management requests a reroute and the only feasible accommodation includes some use of an existing multiple use trail.

The DEC document states that "Where appropriate, development of long-distance trails that cross ... DEC regions will be encouraged." Long-distance trails will not be encouraged when "anticipated levels of use on new or existing trails or increased access to adjacent areas will have unacceptable impacts on natural resources or the recreational experiences of visitors." Consider how our new Crystal Hills Branch, which hosts the Great Eastern Trail from the Pennsylvania line north to its junction with the main FLT at the Moss Hill Lean-to (Map M13/CH1 north of Corning) and passes through several state forests on its way, is consistent with this DEC position: the increased access to several state forests that this new skinny foot path provides will not unacceptably impact natural resources or the recreational experiences of others. To the contrary, this branch trail, like the other trails in the FLT System, just provides pedestrians

– hikers and walkers, geocachers and letter-boxers, orienteers and gps'ers, birdwatchers, nature photographers, botanists, biologists, geologists, and other naturalists, hunters and trackers -- with a quiet way to enjoy the state forests.

The DEC acknowledges the unique character of the FLT and the fact that the only the FLT passes through many of New York's state forests: "Each long distance trail system has its own character, acceptable uses and in some cases even its own formal design standards. To the fullest extent possible accommodations will be made for these criteria on trail sections which pass through State Forests. The Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) is a good example of a long distance trail system with its own character and standards, and is also the only long distance trail of which there is any appreciable mileage found on State Forests." As discussed in recent Trail

Quality Trail Topics columns, the formal design standards we follow for new and rebuilt sections are consistent with the philosophy of going lightly on the land and are generally the same as for the NCNST for trail running across the rural landscape conditions of Southern Tier and Central New York State. And the purpose of these standards is to produce sustainable trail that provides generations with a way to explore New York's state forests on foot.

As announced recently in the NCTA's magazine, *North Star*, the NYS DEC

Region 7 Hill and Hollow Unit Management Plan that covers Morgan Hill State Forest (among others south of Syracuse) now protects the NCNST and its host, the FLT, as trails for foot travel only. This achievement is the result of a 13-year struggle by area hiking trail advocates, especially Bill and Mary Coffin and the Onondaga Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, which sponsors the segment for the FLTC, to achieve foot-travel-only status for a section that had been persistently and badly abused by mountain bikers. At the same time as the NCNST/FLT's identity as a foot trail for hiking, snowshoeing, and xc skiing is reaffirmed in Morgan Hill State Forest, 10-15 miles of new single-track mountain bike trails are being built, a *more than fair* outcome for the biking community.

Further to the west, in the Cattaraugus County sub-region of DEC Region 9, mountain bike riders are being separated off the FLT/NCNST over the next couple of years. While an extensive network of bike trails will remain in McCarty Hill State Forest, by the fall of 2014, riders will no longer be legal



▲ New NYS DEC disk identifies the North Country National Scenic Trail as a Foot Trail



on the clearly white-blazed hiking trail. Both the FLTC and the Western New York Mountain Bike Association (WNYMBA) will retain some segments of the “white trail,” as WNYMBA called the FLT, and both will be required to build new trail around each other’s segments. The WNYMBA will continue to have 26 miles of intertwined mountain bike trails on state forest



land south of Ellicottville, while there will be four linear miles dedicated to the FLT/NCNST and restricted to foot traffic only, again, a *more than fair* outcome for the biking community.

When the FLTC team of Steve Catherman, Marty Howden, Dave Potzler, Lynda Rummel, and Irene Szabo met with representatives from WNYMBA to discuss the trail

situation in Cattaraugus County, both groups expressed views that are clearly opposing. The WNYMBA takes the position that *all trails* – including single tread trails – *must* be multiple use

and allows absolutely no place for single-use hiking trails or, it seemed, for long-distance linear trails. In contrast, the FLTC’s position is that both single-use (including single-use trails for bicycles) and multiple-use trails are acceptable, and in fact desirable, in order to maximize safety, minimize user conflict, and promote the outdoor experience each kind of user desires, and, consistent with its history and mission, the FLTC insists that trails in the FLT System are to be single-use, for foot travel only. (Note: The entire Board of Managers reaffirmed the FLTC’s commitment to a single-use foot path across the state as recently as November 2010, when it unanimously declined to describe *any* trail conditions that would make it acceptable to convert existing trail into multiple-use trail.) The NYS DEC’s support for long-distance hiking trails and its recognition of the FLT as a trail for foot travel only stands in sharp contrast to the position aggressively put forth by the WNYMBA leadership. 🍁

Contact: Lynda Rummel
ljrassoc@roadrunner.com
315-536-9484
315-679-2906 (Jan. - Mar.)

Trail Topics: Mapping Input

Greg Farnham, Mapping Director

The following list of map updates has been released since last issue of the *News*:

A significant re-route in the Catskill area led to updating maps M29 and M30. The FLT now has 3.3 miles less road walk, and is 0.4 miles shorter. The re-route project, described elsewhere in this issue, takes the hiker through the village of Downsville where many services and supplies are available, and across the East Branch of the Delaware River on a covered bridge before re-entering the Delaware Wild Forest and some of the most significant climb and descent of the entire trail. Many thanks are due to Regional Coordinator Rick Roberts for his extensive work with regional authorities and landowners to make this reroute possible. M31 was also updated to reflect new sponsors.

The completion of the Skyline Trail on map O1, the Onondaga Branch Trail, allowed us to update map O1 to describe this new trail. The new Skyline trail is 6.1 miles long and connects Heiberg Memorial Forest with the Onondaga trail near Tinker Falls, routing the hiker through the Labrador Hollow Unique Area, and Kettlebail State Forest.

M09 required the addition of a new hunting closure.

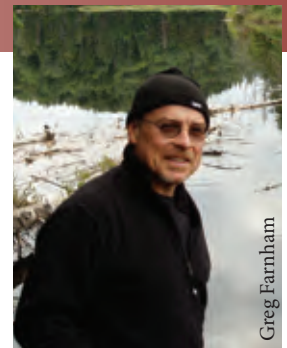
L1 underwent a minor re-route and the addition of a new shelter along the trail. Thanks to Larry Telle who performed the necessary GPS field work to obtain new track and waypoint

data. While implementing this change, it was necessary to change “symbology” (the colors of the park background and the color of the line representing the L trails, since it’s hard to put a yellow trail on a yellow park). L2 and M07 maps were also updated to reflect the symbology change for Letchworth State Park and the L trails.

SwL – (Swedish Loop) additional wording was added to the reverse of the SwL map.

As noted in the previous issue of the magazine, map purchasers will notice the new look of our maps:

Trails are represented by colored lines, rather than the old style bubbles. This allows better representation of the twists and turns of the trail. The color of the main trail, where blazed in white on trees, is black on the new maps. The other line colors match the blaze colors of the trail they depict. In addition, the topographic contour lines have improved visibility. 🍁



Greg Farnham

Contact: Greg Farnham
greg.farnham@me.com

Trail Topics: 2013 Alley Cats

Matt Branneman, Vice President of Construction

The sun finally came out and the construction season is now in full swing. Please consider volunteering for one of the Alley-Cat projects this year. It is a great way to give back to the trail, get outside, hang out with some really great people, and get a good work out. You can volunteer for all or part of the project, whatever your schedule will allow. Hope to see you this summer on one of these Alley Cats.

Alley Cat 1 Building new trail will take place before this issue goes to the printer.

Alley Cat 2 The Chestnut Lean-to in Danby State Forest (Ithaca area Map M17) is in desperate need of replacing. Paul Warrender will be project manager for this Alley Cat

Demolition of old Chestnut Leanto in May



project. An access trail to the site was cut in April by the Cayuga Trails Club and the dismantling of the existing shelter took place in May, also headed up by CTC. See Jack Vanderzee's pictures of the demolition day. The construction project will take place Saturday June 15 to Friday June 21; lodging will be at the Lions Camp Badger.



Bob Moses

Alley Cat 3 In Shindagan Hollow State Forest (Map M18) the demolition and rebuilding of the current tired, old bridge over Shindagan Creek will take place August 8 to August 11. The footings and sills for the bridge on both sides are in need of repair from recent flooding and erosion. A new bridge will be built on the newly repaired footings. Paul Warrender has volunteered again to be project manager; lodging will be at the Lions Camp Badger.

Alley Cat 4 We will build a new lean-to in New Michigan State Forest on Map M-23 in Chenango County with Tom Bryden leading as project manager. The DEC has already cut and milled the logs which are waiting to be delivered to the site. Tom has reserved a YMCA Camp for lodging, food prep, and dining. This project will take place from September 20th to 25th. 🍁

Photos by Jack Vanderzee



Contact: Matt Branneman
mattbranneman@gmail.com
607-220-7812

Great Chaps from a Really Fine Chap

Story & Photos By Lynda Rummel, Vice President for Trail Quality

Dave Nielsen, proprietor of Nielsen's Sales in Penn Yan, sells and services Dolmar equipment, including chainsaws, weed whackers, gas powered leaf blowers, and the personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to go along with these power tools, including **8-ply UL-approved** "shhhhhaps." Many FLTC sawyers have used Dolmar equipment and seen it in operation during our sawyer certification training. Our instructor, Bill Lindloff, uses Dolmar PPE and chain saws when teaching, and he allows us to use his saws, especially when our own aren't up to the job.

Until a few years ago, the FLTC could count on the National Park Service purchasing and paying for the PPE through our partnership with the North Country Trail. When the NPS financial situation changed, trainees became responsible for providing their own PPE, except for the chaps, which the FLTC Board committed to providing so that trainees would not purchase by mistake the *non*-UL-approved chaps that are still readily available. But in this era of The Sequester, high gas prices, and prudent belt-tightening, how could the FLTC afford to buy the chaps?

Over the years, I've bought a lot of equipment from Dave. By far the most reliable tools have been Dolmar-made, which have outperformed the particular Stihl, Husqvarna, and Ryobi products that I've owned. Dolmar saws are made in Germany, and the company has been around since 1927. So it was natural for me to ask Dave if there might be a way for Dolmar to help us provide our trainees with UL-approved chaps. Dave's response was to get approval from Dolmar to sell us chaps at the incredible deeply discounted price of \$25 per pair, or \$40 less than the retail price! So for this season's training, we ordered seven pairs and saved \$380!

Dave's father started the business in 1965. Dave joined him in 1975. The Nielsen's Sales shop is small and cluttered, tucked into the wedge between two backwater streets in the old district down by the Keuka Outlet Creek. Tagged, repaired machines and ones awaiting service are stuffed between boxes of new supplies. This is not a shop where still-good-but-old equipment is tossed out. Dave will service other brands that he has sold, too, and he's one of the few Dolmar dealers around. If you are in the Penn Yan area, please stop by his shop and thank him for his very generous donation to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. Call ahead, to make sure he's not stepped out for coffee. 🍁



▲ And what brand does Dave Nielsen sell?

▼ Nielsen's Sales is located at 105 Water Street in Penn Yan. (315) 536-6195.



Send **address changes** to Finger Lakes Trail Conference, 6111 Visitor Center Rd., Mt. Morris, NY 14510 or fltinfo@fi.gerlakestrail.org

CANASTOTA

NEW YORK'S FIRST NCTA TRAIL TOWN

The North Country Trail Association, an organization with a role similar to ours but in relation to a much bigger trail, the 4600-mile North Country National Scenic Trail, has instituted the concept of official "Trail Towns" in all seven states recently. Both the trail's visibility and the town's related businesses should benefit from these designations. While the FLT is still noodling opportunities to arrange some of our own trail towns as official designees, the NCTA Chapter between the FLT and the Adirondacks, the Central NY Chapter, has gotten Canastota so declared.



▲ Canastota's business district borders a short rewatered segment of the 1840's (second) version of the Erie Canal, now part of the Old Erie Canal State Park 35-mile towpath trail.

Canastota hosts the NCT right through the village, where the route turns east along the towpath of the Old Erie Canal State Park before turning northward at Rome. The town has been welcoming to the trail and helpful with permissions, in vivid contrast to the chapter's treatment at the hands of local state parks managers (see article on page 22 about the necessity to sue NY State!), and even supplied the pictured banner during the official designation ceremony.

After an early May NCT meeting of NY volunteers in nearby Chittenango, Canastota got my motel, breakfast, and gas dollars, so being a Trail Town helps!

500 NEW MEMBERS!

Nice dream, but even though it's true that our membership totals just rose by nearly 500 homes, the big change came about because the Board of Managers decided it was high time we made all of our permitting landowners members also. They already were getting the magazine, so now they also can vote at the annual meeting, receive free annual renewals, AND receive all of the FLTC mailings. We hope some will join us at one of the spring or fall weekends, too!

THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL

The Best Walks, Hikes, and Backpacking Trips on America's Longest National Scenic Trail

Ron Strickland

with the North Country Trail Association

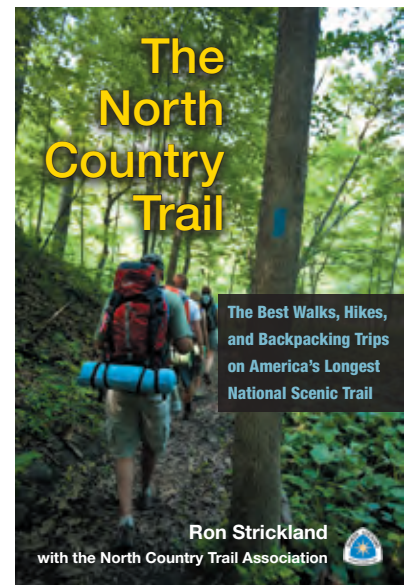
For only \$22.95 you can own this new book, 250 pages' worth of enticing hike descriptions from each of the seven states of this 4600 mile trail, including four from our own Finger Lakes Trail. Trail hosts all along the trail, whether NCTA chapters or affiliates like the FLT or Buckeye Trail Association in Ohio, were asked a couple of years ago to pick a few favorite hikes which would show off their trail at its best and demonstrate special places typical of the area.

Each entry features basic information like length and difficulty rating, directions to trailheads, a simple map, and blow by blow trail directions which include the attractions you're intended to enjoy there, so it's easy to decide whether you'd like to try each one. Best of all, most hikes include a sidebar with local history or natural features that fill out the picture of each particular neighborhood and add to your enjoyment.

This first foray into producing a guidebook shows some odd bumps, like no photo credits or captions (?!), but the NCTA is already looking forward to selling this first printing so they can begin revisions on the next edition. Those of us who have ever tried to write guidebooks to trails, or even the backside info for a single Finger Lakes Trail map, know all too well that things change the second you commit them to print, so it was smart to publish a manageable number of this edition, since changes are inevitable anyway.

Help the NCTA afford to start on the second edition by buying this one now; it's still plenty useful and easy to use. You'll be lured to many great places you would otherwise have missed.

Buy yours at the Trail Shop at northcountrytrail.org, pick up a copy at the national conference in August in Pennsylvania, or buy one from the FLT visitor center. 585/658-9320 or fltinfo@fingerlakestrail.org



PASSAGES

Bill Garrison, Landowner Extraordinaire

On May 5th, former trail landowner Bill Garrison died at the age of 91. In 1999 the FLTC awarded him and wife Ellen our Erv Markert Award for great contributions from someone other than members, first of all because they were the first private landowners to invite us to put a permanent easement on the trail route through their property on Bean Station Road south of Prattsburgh, Steuben County, Map B3 of the Bristol Hills Branch. Then they helped arrange the construction of what is by now the most welcoming shelter in the whole system, Evangeline.

From his obituary in *The Corning Leader*:

After the war, Bill attended Ball State Teachers College in Indiana. There he met Ellen Higgs, and they were married in June 1950. Bill taught American history in public schools in Kokomo and Bloomington and at Culver Military Academy. In 1967 he co-founded the John Dorr Nature Lab in Washington, CT. In 1975, he founded the Connecticut Outdoor School, also in Washington. Later he was the farm manager for the estate of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller III in the Hudson River Valley. In 1985, he retired to create his beloved Morning Glory Farm on Bean Station Road in Prattsburgh. Bill was active in the community, co-founding the Prattsburgh Historical Society and brightening the village with flowers. He served two years as Supervisor of the Town of Urbana. On land behind their house, Bill built the “Evangeline Shelter” on the Finger Lakes Trail.

For the past few years, Bill and Ellen have lived in Bantam, Connecticut, with their daughter. Bill, a life-long gardener, helped create the Bantam River Park.

Bill is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ellen Garrison.

Frederick Hiltz PhD

Frederick Hiltz, an early FLT trail builder, died in Shelburne, VT, on Feb. 20, 2013.

The following paragraph is from “A Brief History of the Finger Lakes Trail” 2nd edition, 2002, by Tom Reimers.

The Cayuga Trails Club used an airplane in 1962 to scout for trail route. Cruising at 80 mph, Fred L. Hiltz reported to the club that he had flown “at 500 feet or a bit higher, because I don’t like to be too low in narrow spaces like Michigan Hollow.” Hiltz explained, “Visibility at that altitude is good enough to see animal tracks in the snow. Even at higher altitudes, you can see whether trail clearings will be brush-whip work or power saw work.” Hiltz was a graduate student in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University and one of several members of the Cornell Outing Club who assisted the Cayuga Trails Club in routing trail. A 10-minute flight over Connecticut Hill in Tompkins County, with the fold-down door of his Piper PA-11 open for better viewing, did the work of walking for several days. Fred also piloted a Tripacer on June 6, 1964, for the FLTC to scout 350 miles of possible trail route in the area of the Catskill Mountains.



▲ ▲ At the park in central Watkins Glen where concrete monuments have appeared recently to mark both the Catharine Valley and the Finger Lakes Trails, the CVT Friends group obtained a grant to put up quality trail kiosks for both groups. As you can see in the reflection on the plastic cover, Steve Catherman took these pictures.

Bug Bites, continued...

LARK IN THE PARK 2013!

OCTOBER 5TH – 14TH

“A Celebration of the Catskill Park”

The Catskill “Lark in the Park” began in 2004 to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Catskill Park. Since its inception, the “Lark” has brought together hundreds of people and dozens of organizations that have participated in more than 260 events, all aimed at heightening awareness of the Catskill Mountain region of New York State. So come experience the [Catskill Mountain Club’s](#) tenth annual LARK IN THE PARK, in cooperation with the [Catskill Center for Conservation and Development](#), the [New York-New Jersey Trail Conference](#) and the NYS DEC. We have put together an exciting lineup of guided hikes, paddling, cycling, fishing, nature walks, and lectures, as well as cultural and social events throughout the entire Catskill Region.

Help us celebrate the anniversary of the creation of the Catskill Park by hiking to a Catskill Fire Tower, paddling the Pepacton Reservoir, cycling on the Catskill Scenic Trail, learning about the region’s ecology, and much more. The *Lark in the Park* group activities are always free of charge. Everyone is welcome!

Be sure to check regularly the *Lark in the Park* web site at www.catskillslark.org for schedules and other important information, including pre-registration for some events, or follow the *Lark in the Park* on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CatskillsLarkInThePark).

Since this year’s Lark coincides with the FLTC’s Fall Campout and its events are just a hop, skip and hike from the Campout’s site, what better way to extend the fall fun than to take in a few Lark events and enjoy the Catskills.

Rick Roberts



NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN AUGUST

Every year one of the seven states of the NCT hosts the annual conference, filled with hikes, tours, workshops, and evening programs and always a good time. Next year it’s in Minnesota, and the year after that is New York’s turn again, but in 2013 the event is tantalizingly nearby, in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, north of Pittsburgh. Check out the NCTA website at www.northcountrytrail.org and boink on the conference logo on the home page, the one with fireworks in it, because we who will be there get to see one night of an international fireworks competition! This year’s program is longer than normal, August 12 through 17, so the daily program offerings are so extensive they couldn’t even fit in the *North Star* magazine. It’s all online, and presents a terrific menu of enticing activities. You’ll go happily nuts trying to decide.

Teaser hints: come to the NCTA awards program to see several of our very own New York volunteers honored, and, John, don’t miss the North Country Brewery, right on the trail.



THIRTY-YEAR MEMBER

Kalista Lehrer

This past winter the North Country Trail Association published their 2012 Annual Report, which included a listing of members who had reached 10, 20, and 30 year membership levels in this 31-year-old organization. Only eight people across seven states are on the 30 year list, which includes our own Kalista Lehrer from Newfane in Erie County, a stalwart member of Foothills Trail Club.

FLTC Sawyers Certified and Recertified

Lynda Rummel, Vice President for Trail Quality

The weekend of April 20 and 21 was bitterly cold, with spitting rain turning to snow and the wind rising to 20 mph at times, even deep in the trees of Birdseye Hollow State Forest (Map M12, near Bath). Nevertheless, eight returning sawyers and one fearless newbie, along with their intrepid trainer and me, the tag-along “quality assurance observer,” braved the weather and (re)learned the knowledge and skills needed to become a “certified sawyer.” The lucky five recertifiers and five first timers who took the training on May 18 and 19 had only to endure spring sunshine and temperatures in the 60’s. Of course it was Marty Howden, Trail Quality’s Chain Saw Training Coordinator, not I, who had to observe during the nice weather.

Each braved the bitter cold and spitting rain to become a “certified sawyer.”

Two DEC employees, whom we were very happy to include, participated in the May 18-19 training (and yes, both were certified). The FLTC again offered free room (at the Reginald P. Wood Memorial to Scouting in Hammondsport) and gave UL-approved chaps to those who needed them (please see related story). In exchange for the free training, successful participants promise to volunteer their services outside their home territories whenever they are asked and able to do so. This arrangement attempts to assure that certified sawyers are available to help trail maintainers across the state. The list of currently certified sawyers can be obtained by asking Lynda Rummel via ljrassoc@roadrunner.com. Since only certified sawyers are allowed to use chainsaws on trails in the FLT System, don’t hesitate to ask for their help!

Thanks to Region 8 Forester Gretchen Cicora for her oversight and for marking trees in Birdseye Hollow State Forest. ~~For more information, contact Gretchen at 607-755-1234.~~ Once again, many, many thanks to our fabulous instructor, Bill Lindloff, for making us sawyers much safer and more efficient in the woods. RIT professor Bob Kremens, a trained forest fire fighter, certainly speaks for both groups in an email he sent out after completing his recertification: “Thanks to all who showed up for a great experience and especially to Bill who runs a brilliant class. I learn a lot every time I take this!” 🍁



▲ The May 18-19 class of sawyers consisted of:
L to R. Kneeling: Nick Brown (DEC), Emily Bonk (DEC), Bill Lindloff (instructor). Standing: Paul Hoffman, Dick Swank, Deb Borer, Marcus Coppola, Bob Kremens, Mike Granger, Kevin Lodge, Joe Borer.

► April 20-21 Class The temperature stayed cold but the sun finally came out Sunday afternoon. Participants completing the April 20-21 course were:
L to R. Kneeling: Bill Lindloff (instructor), Tom Wallenhorst. Standing: Gary Haff, Mark Musso, Marty Howden, Frank Occhiuto, Peter Marks, Pat Monahan, Jack Wallenhorst, Gary Mallow.



Finally, #353

William F. Jones, "Frank"

My initial Finger Lakes Trail hike began with a simple and cordial invitation to join a small group who had already hiked about 150 miles of the trail. It all seemed so easy until I realized these people were serious. Soon, I looked forward to our monthly outing. It wasn't long before I owned my first pair of snowshoes and discovered a new way of walking. From this beginning came one adventure after another with our group membership slowly changing from year to year. For me, the physical challenge was significant and I soon discovered that our outings demanded substantial mental effort as well. There is much to see in the woods but it became immediately clear that footing was paramount so my surroundings were often judged with only a fleeting glimpse. There are an abundance of slippery rocks, roots, and foot bridges to surprise a careless traveler. It seems strange now to view all day rains and the accompanying mud slogs as normal. The camaraderie quickly pushed the less than perfect environment from our minds and brought forth many warm and friendly conversations. This rapidly changed strangers into friends and formed lasting relationships.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Larry Telle, most of the original group members have now completed the entire trail. Some are moving toward a second end-to-end goal and many have also finished the FLT branch trails. I hope to finish the FLT branch trails soon. The Finger Lakes Trail is certainly one of New York's many gems and we all are thankful that so many private landowners generously permit the trail to pass through their land. I thank all those individuals that shared the miles with me and who taught me so much. 🍁



Larry Telle

▲ Frank Jones fin shed on the seam between Maps 6 and 7, where Whiskey Bridge in the background takes us across the Genesee River.

RIT Students Improve Robinson Loops Trail

Photos & Story By Ron Navik, Trail Chair, Genesee Valley Hiking Club

Groups of Rochester Institute of Technology students worked on the weekends of April 12-14 and 26-28 to complete over 800 feet of sidehilling on the Robinson Loops near Swain's ski hill on Map M8. Sidehilling or benching creates a level tread for our feet along a slope that would otherwise be hard to walk along, one foot higher than the other, so the "bench" must be chopped out of the dirt through roots and rocks.

The first weekend came at the end of a long rainy week but under the direction of RIT instructor Michelle VandenBout the students got camp set up and remained relatively dry over the weekend. They did, however, get quite muddy working across many active drainages on the trail. The group on the second weekend had drier weather, but still got plenty dirty before they went back to school and some long, hot showers.



These students receive credit toward their gym requirements, but all enjoyed being outdoors and contributing to a better trail. Several expressed a desire to come back and do some hiking. The students from Malaysia said they were disappointed that right now they don't have any hiking and backpacking opportunities like this in their country. 🍁

End to End on the Finger Lakes Trail

Laurie Ondrejka #347

I started hiking the Cortland County series as my first attempt at longer hikes and to get out of the house and do something I enjoy. As a newcomer I did not anticipate doing the entire FLT even though I heard many folks talking about their number or when they expected to finish their end-to-end. During the Cortland series I missed a few of the hikes and Debbie Nero agreed to finish the series with me. That was the beginning of our friendship that continued after the series. We decided to hike the other counties and we became determined to finish the entire trail and to hike every weekend. Since neither of us wanted to stop in the winter, we bought snowshoes and continued our journey. The winter of 2011 into 2012 was pretty dry, so we used them rarely, yet we still managed to hit a snow storm without the snowshoes along. You just never know.

Our plan had us hiking on the west end of the trail until it was warm enough to hit the east side. I would stay in Ithaca so we could begin early when working on the east end, while Debbie and her dogs would stay in Avon when we started working on the west side. We created a routine, when we would wake up, when we would head out, and how to spot cars. Debbie planned all of our routes. We learned a lot about each other as we hiked ... talking about kids, jobs, movies, books, and where to get the best hiking clothes.

Our journey came with some interesting experiences along the trail. We both had some falls along the way, bee stings, stinging nettles, and all kinds of bumps and bruises. Near the Hammondsport area Debbie saw a mother bear with two older cubs. Debbie had the strangest look on her face that made me think she saw a dead body. Luckily Debbie's two dogs, Adeline and Lucille, made enough noise to scare off any other beasts.

On a cold and windy day near Swain two German Shepherd dogs come charging at us out of the woods. They turned out to be friendly and followed us for 10 miles. After that hike, we returned them to the place we thought they lived. Debbie talked with a man who knew who owned them so we

returned them to their home. We think the German Shepherds came to watch over us that day and it was nice having them along.



Debra Nero

Photo by Laurie Ondrejka

In another adventure we decided to try four hikes in one week over the 4th of July. The temperatures were high yet we attacked the hardest Catskill hike of 16 miles in one day of steep climbing. It was 90 degrees and we ran low on water. By the last day, my feet were pretty blistered and sore. Walking became limping.

Near Franklinville, we stumbled across a poor hungry kitten out in the middle of nowhere. Little kitty came with us for 15 miles in my backpack, crying most of the way. We let the poor thing get out to stretch and eat some of Debbie's chicken that she packed for lunch. We had some discussion about what to do with the kitten so I decided to keep it.



Once we became separated. Debbie was ahead of me and one of us made a wrong turn. Luckily we had a cell signal to text each other. No matter what happened on the trail, being lost, exhausted, or running into guys shooting too close, we still looked forward to the next weekend hiking.



Laurie Ondrejka

I feel a great sense of accomplishment from finishing my end-to-end. The FLT has re-introduced me to the state of New York and showed me places I had never thought to visit. It brought a boost to my physical and mental health and let me appreciate the beauty that surrounds us every day, whether it is 90 degrees or 20. To see and feel the history of the land, to let the land tell us a story through the trail, is just a great part of our experience. I realize now that if we can hike through pouring rain, mud, snow, and scorching heat, then it must have meant something. I am proud of the certificate I received and it hangs on my wall. I want to thank Debbie Nero(#346) for hiking with me; I would have never finished

the trail if I didn't have her to hike with.

Today we are working through the FLT branch trails. 🍁

2012 Contributions

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference gratefully acknowledges the support of all our members and donors, and especially wish to recognize the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their generous support during 2012. The amounts listed include dues and contributions to any FLTC fund. We have done our best to be accurate in spelling names as well as making sure we got everyone in the right categories. We apologize if some mistakes have crept in.

\$1000 and above

ADK Onondaga Chapter
F. Gregory Farnham
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Stan Kertel
Ruth M. Kuhfahl
Nancy Luger
Phillip & Tamira Metzger
David & Gloria Potzler
Lynda Rummel & Rolf A. Zerges
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Paul Hoffman & Jane Schryver
Holiday Valley Resort
Christine Hughes
Theodore L. Hullar
Brian Irvine
John M. Andersson Engineering
William B. Joint
Linda & Bradley Jones
Mary Keller

Larry Reister
Kay Remmler
Kathleen Revekant & Randy Belser
Dr. Lorne A. & Ellen Runge
Betsy Sacks
Deborah Schaaf
Brian & Pam Schu
Dr. Danny W. & Kristin Scott
Jack Sexton
Richard & Irene Sills
Ronald & Linda Smarsh
Jim & Ellen Stork
David B. & Grace Strong
Donald & Beatrice Sutherland
Terry Swank
Eugenia Tam
RWV & Jo H. Taylor
Kenneth & Maria Terhune
Constance Thomas
Jackson & Shirley Thomas
Gail Tremblay
James & Jane Trondsen

\$100 - \$199

Doug Ahlsen & Marianne Knych
Brett Ahrens
John M. Andersson
Phil Antweiler & Kathy Brahney
Tom & Carolyn Argust
Roger & Dawn Ashworth
Paul Babbitt
Scott Bahantka
Jared Barlow
David Barr & Donna Resue
Larry & June Bates
Bath Veterinary Hospital
Donald G. Beattie

\$200 - \$299

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Tom Babcock
Roger S. & Whitney Bagnall
Judith M. & Jeffrey Bennett
Kevin Breiner
Helen D. Brooks

Julianna Van Sant
 Joseph A. Vieira
 Vinehurst Inn & Suites, JP & Kitty Oliver
 Samuel Vrooman
 Jerry Vukman
 Sharon R. Wheat
 Penelope Wickham & Tom Kather
 David & Linda Wiener
 William G. Becker & Sons, Inc.
 Jennifer Wilson & Joe Wertlyschyn
 David J. Wingrove & Ann M. Borkhuis
 Hans P. & Florence Witte
 Phyllis Youngmans

Donna J. & Bruce Coon
 Cornell Outdoor Education
 Russell Cornwell & Theresa Joseph
 David Coulter
 Joe Dabes & Kathy Brennan
 Peter Dady
 John Dailey
 Joe Daley
 J. John & Carolyn Dancy
 Roy & Laurie Dando
 Philip R. Dankert
 John & Jo Ellen Del Campo &
 Stryder & Lisa Underwood

Mark S. Hunt & Steven Hunt
 Mahlon & Eleanor Hurst & Sarah
 Hurst
 Jane Huston & Ernie Werstler
 Robert Paul Hutz
 Bryan Isacks
 Gordon & Helen Jarvis
 David E. Jehle
 Rita E. Jensen
 Douglas & MaryAnne Jones
 Lois Judd
 Lois Justice
 Jon A. Kapecki & Jeanne Kaeding
 Anna Keeton & "Bodhi" Michael
 Rogers

Peter Passalacqua
 Kathleen A. Perry
 Jan Reagan
 Carol Renninger
 Michael A. Rickard & Sarah
 Balduf
 Kathy & John Ritter
 Rochester Ski Club
 A. Anthony Rodriguez
 Ann & Steve Rose
 Craig Russell
 Frederic A. Salvante
 Raymond & Barbara Sanger &
 Family

\$45 - \$99

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 Henry Abbink
 Judy Abrams
 Lance & Kathy Alexander
 Theresa Alianell
 Rev. Dr. William A. & Kristen Allen
 Karen & James Alpha
 Jacob & Wendy Amidon
 Paul Archambault
 Bill & Anne Ashley
 Jonathan Babcock
 Donna G. Badolato
 Barbara Bailey
 Alan Bangel
 Jim & Wanda Barbour
 Bob & Shirley Barton
 Thomas & Joan Bayline
 Thom R. & Mary Lou Belasky
 Heidi & Diane Bellenger
 Gerard Benedict
 Dawn L. Bennett
 Allan R. Berry
 Robert Betzler
 John & Virginia Bickford
 Georgiana & Eugene Binder
 Derek & Margaret Blount
 Mark Bouton
 Dick Bower
 George Brett
 Scott Brooks
 Daniel A. Brown
 Jean U. Bub
 Buffalo Games
 Dawn Burdick & Sherrie Reilly
 Linda M. Busko
 Richard & Linda Butler
 Al Carpenter, Downsview Motel
 Mary Ann Cascarino
 Charles Caster
 Catskill Mountain Club
 Jim & Sharon Chambers
 Denise Charpentier
 Andrew Coleman & Family
 Susan S. Collier
 Peter Collinge & Carol Thiel
 Donald R. Collins
 Gerald F. Collins
 Melissa Conrad

Christopher Demong
 Charles W. Denzik
 Michael J. Desha
 Robert & Carol Dickey
 Joseph & Diane DiDomenico
 R. Lee Dinehart
 Sharon Dittman
 Mary Z. Domanski
 Richard & Rosalyn DuBois
 Chris & Michelle Dudley
 James & Debbie Duncan
 Alma R. Dunham
 Roger L. Easton, Jr.
 Kathleen L. Eisele
 Michael F. Elio
 Robert C. Emerson
 Wes Ernsberger
 Joan Ewing
 Arnie Fisher
 Peter Fleszar & Krista Cessna
 Kathleen M. Foote
 Luis Francisco
 Helen Fredricks
 Beth Frind
 Barry Fry
 Sharon L. & William A. Galbraith
 Elizabeth Garry
 Guy Gerard
 Thomas Gilbert
 Patrick Gnage
 David Goldman
 Peter & June Gordon
 Gwen Gottschall
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 Christopher Sprague
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 Scott E. Lauffer
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 Matthew J. & Jennifer M. Maloney
 John Mangus
 Sandra Marciano
 David J. Marchner
 Julie & Gary Marks
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 Lucy McCabe
 Rita M. McCabe
 C. Thomas & Emily M. McCall
 Elizabeth McCollum
 A. Gail Merian
 June Meyer
 Alan T. Midura
 John Milne
 Kirk & Rose Mishrell
 Barney Molldrem
 Barbara Morrissey
 Clyde Morrison
 David & Barbara Morse
 Ray Mueller
 David & Janet Muir
 Jim & Helen Mullen
 Paul M. Murphy
 John H. & Grace Myhre
 Davies & Heather Nagel
 Glenn M. Nixon
 North Country Trail Assoc.
 Melanie Okoniewski
 Richard & Sara Olson
 Patrick J. O'Mara
 Richard & Pat Ortlepp
 Fred & Dionne Parker
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Annette Schaff
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 Robert A. Schmidt
 Jim Schmitt
 David C. Schwaner
 Elaine Scott
 Karen Serbonich
 Carol & Sam Shama
 Rachael Shapiro
 Gary L. & Penny Shaw
 Donald & Linda Sheffer
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 Steven Siegard
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 Paige N. Smith
 Terry & Carolyn Smith
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 Mr. & Mrs. Gordon L. Stringer
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 Irene Szabo
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 Justin Thaine
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 Lowell & Kate Turner
 Susan, Rick, Matthew,
 Katherine Turnquist
 Linda P. & Adam Van Buskirk
 Barbara & John Van Kerkhove
 Peter Van Slyke
 Bob & Sherry Volk
 Georgeanne Vyverberg
 Ed & Nancy Wallace
 William H. Wallace
 Edward & Eudora Walsh
 David Warne
 Blaine & Kitty Warner
 James C. & Ding Xiang Warner
 Angus & Anne Watkins
 Gregory Wells
 Ed & Carol Wertz
 Donald W. Wilson
 Terrence & Barbara Woodworth
 Peter R. Wybron
 Raymond & Sandra Yelle
 Robert S. Younger
 Charlene M. Zebley
 Janet Ziebur

TO MEMBERS OF THE FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE: Pursuant to Section 726(d) of the New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc., is required to mail to its members not later than the date of the annual meeting of members a statement specifying certain details with respect to the purchase or renewal of its insurance for the Society's indemnification of its directors and officers. Accordingly, please be advised as follows:

1. The name of the insurance carrier is Great American Insurance
2. The cost of the insurance to be paid during the 2013 fiscal year is \$1300.
3. The indemnification insurance contract covers any person who has been, now is, or shall become a duly elected director or trustee, a duly elected or appointed officer, an employee, committee member, whether or not they are salaried, any other person acting on behalf of the Conference or at the direction of an officer or board of managers of the Conference.

Executive Director's Report

Dick Hubbard

The Spring Weekend is behind us and I can now reflect that I am beginning to repeat events! The past year offered me the opportunity to become involved, meet new people and work with both dedicated volunteers and a productive, upbeat office staff.

As I reflect over the past year, I realize how enjoyable it has been to develop new relationships, learn about the organization and introduce some new ideas. A significant change was to bring all of our landowners into full membership status. This gives each landowner a voice in how we run our organization, the same as you and me. Our landowners are a valuable resource for the Conference, and yet, they are seldom recognized. I recently worked with some landowners and trail stewards to resolve issues that broke confidence, and am reminded how important it is to nurture good relationships with landowners. Keep in mind that we are only guests on their property!

Please honor our private property landowners by obeying property requests, staying on the trail and making our appearance on their property as soft and unobtrusive as possible. If, by chance, you do meet one, let them know how appreciative you are that they allow us to use their land for our footpath.

Have a great summer filled with wonderful adventure! Come on out and join us for an event or get your hands dirty working on the trail!

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

Name(s):

Address:

City, St. Zip:

Phone (optional):

Email (optional):

- ☐ I'm enclosing a check for \$23 payable to NCTA
- ☐ Please charge my credit card (MasterCard, Visa or AmEx only)
- Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
- Name as it appears on card: _____
- Signature: _____

"Hike with the Executive Director"



▲ The inaugural "Hike with the Executive Director" was on April 17 in beautiful hemlock-shrouded Mitchellsville Gorge (Map M12) outside Hammondsport. I had the pleasure to hike with Peggy Coleman (in pink), the new FLTC Vice President of Membership & Marketing, and local owners of the Black Sheep Inn B&B, Debbie Meritsky and Marc Rotman. We discussed the value of the trail to local businesses and new ideas on how to promote the trail to the public. Debbie and Marc are also artists who organize an annual Art Trail through Steuben County called Arts In Bloom. Check out the Black Sheep Inn at www.stayblacksheepinn.com

In the Spring Issues of the FLT News, Dick offered to get out on the trail with trail tenders, landowners, officials or anyone interested in a casual outing. If you want to schedule a hike, simply contact Dick and see if you can work out an agreeable time and date.

Contact: Dick Hubbard
rdh@bufflo.com
716-604-8380



▲ On May 2nd, many central NY volunteers met with Mark Weaver, new National Park Service Superintendent for the North Country Trail, and Bruce Matthews, Executive Director of the North Country Trail Association, after their meetings with Albany people from NY's Office of Parks to hear how those meetings had fared, trying to re-establish respectful relations after the alarming fracas described on page 22. Pat Monahan, Bruce Matthews, and Dick Hubbard review the results in Chittenango at the Canal Museum.

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

Newest End to Ender:

#353 Frank Jones, Rochester, April 20, 2013. See his account in this issue.

It is important to send updates and notice of your intention to hike end-to-end for both the main and branch trails to me. Often simple tips can help you avoid difficulties. The End-to-End hiking pull-down on the website also has suggestions, forms and information. You are encouraged to contact me directly by email or phone.

Always check www.fltconference.org/trail conditions for the **latest** trail conditions, since changes happen all the time, even after new maps were published.

Updates:

Larry Telle, Rochester, is working on the main trail.

Peg Erway and friend Dale from Fairport are backpacking the main trail in segments. I hope to hike with them on occasion.

Kevin Armstrong, Naples, has started his Branch Trail end-to-end hikes.

Comments:

Several new (to the FLTC) hikers have expressed their desire to thru-hike this season. If you meet them on the trail, let us all know how they are doing and take photos if you can. Thru hikers will certainly be calling on our wonderful car spotters and use the e-group for assistance. Joe Dabes updated his useful backpacking manual recently which provides a wealth of information, plus tips from TEN time end-to-ender, Java Joe.

Car Spotters:

Larry Telle appreciated the experienced assistance he received from the 2012 Wally Wood winners, Tom & Donna Noteware,

on a recent hike. From Dale & Peg backpacking: "Bob & Carol Dickey picked us up in Hornell and drove us back to my vehicle. Nice people!"

Welcome to the newest car spotter, #292 Ken Shaw of Buffalo, who completed a continuous hike. He will be a terrific asset.

NOTE: Thanks to those who have become spotters. Car spotting is a great assistance for hikers, so accepting the offered gas money gives hikers a way to thank you back.

We ALWAYS need more car spotters, so please email me to apply or find the form directly on the website. 🍁

Contact: Jacqui Wensich

jwensich@rochester.rr.com

585-385-2265

PERMITTING LANDOWNER PROPERTY FOR SALE BUY YOUR OWN PIECE OF THE TRAIL

Perera Property

✳ 100 acres in Allegany County ✳

On Map M6, near AP 3,

7505 Higgins Creek Rd. in Fillmore NY, 14735

Includes a section of Main trail and High Water trail

Christmas tree farm with woods, open fields, stream (Sixtown Creek), updated house, pond, cabin, detached barn /garage

\$290,000 (his cost in ~2003)

Contact Harsha Perera, 917-362-8090,

or pereraharsha@yahoo.com

New Offer of North Country Trail Assoc. Membership

E-Membership Price: \$12.00

For a limited time, enjoy 70% off membership to the North Country Trail Association!

It's easy. Just go to the northcountrytrail.org website, and click on the banner that says 70% off.

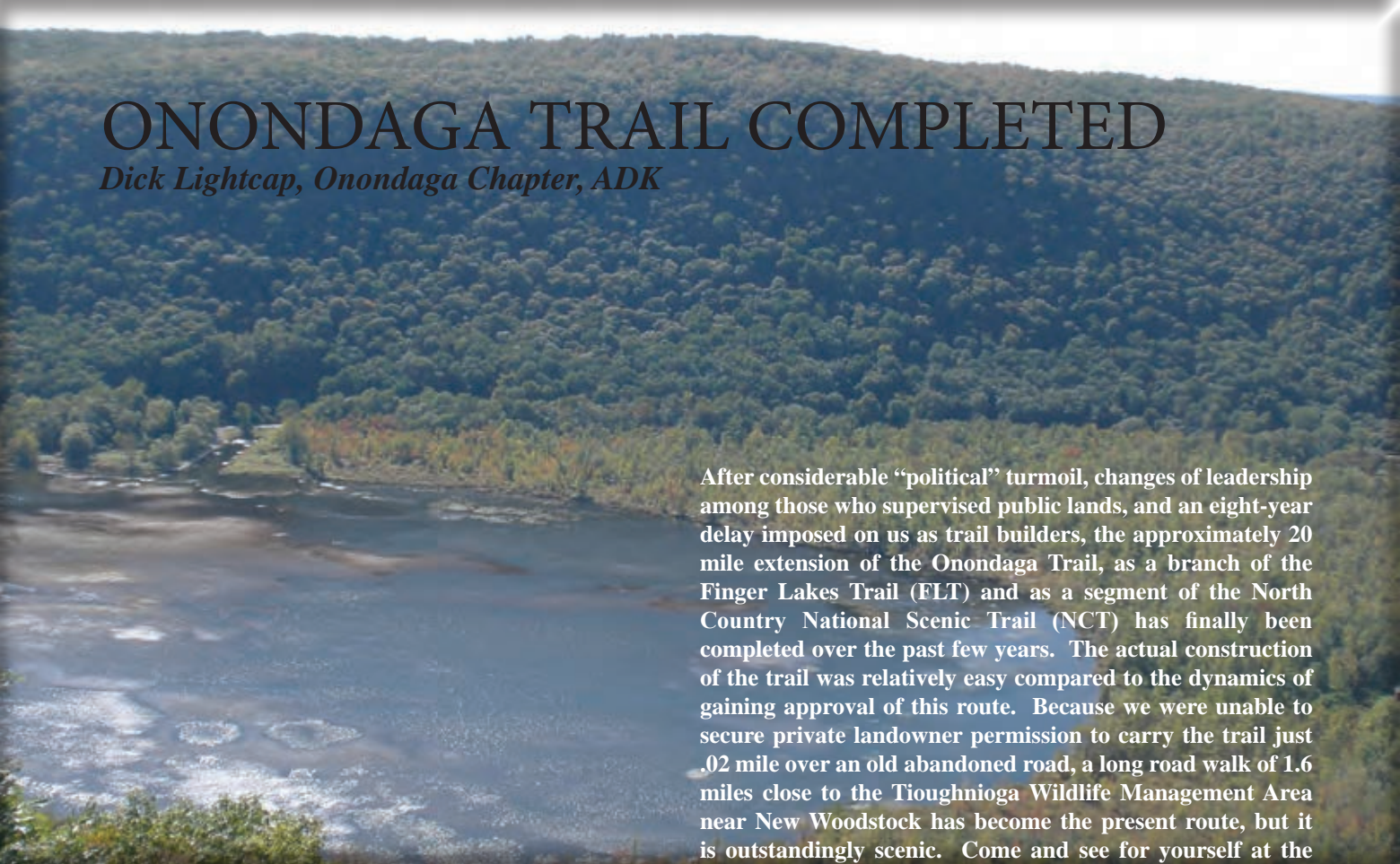
Your \$12 e-membership is a one-time only introductory offer, for new members ONLY. You'll receive an electronic version of our quarterly magazine, North Star, as well as periodic e-communications and updates. You are invited and encouraged to join your local NCTA chapter and participate in their hikes, events and trail-building activity. Chapter choice is often based on geographic location, and convenience to where you live or play. If you don't want to join the Central New York Chapter, check "At Large," which is where most FLT Members join. A year from

now we'll send you an annual membership renewal note at the regular membership rate. We're confident you'll find your experiences rewarding and worthwhile in joining like-minded folks who share your passion for the outdoors!

Thank you for supporting the North Country National Scenic Trail, and the North Country Trail Association that builds and maintains it and tells its story! Your e-membership helps pay for the tools, materials, and training our volunteers need to keep building the trail. It also supports trail protection efforts. As the NCTA grows in membership it also grows in its capacity to attract more funding and be more effective in Washington and in each of the 7 state capitols of our North Country Trail states. Add it all up and you're part of a growing effort to build and preserve the Trail and pass it on to future generations.

ONONDAGA TRAIL COMPLETED

Dick Lightcap, Onondaga Chapter, ADK



After considerable “political” turmoil, changes of leadership among those who supervised public lands, and an eight-year delay imposed on us as trail builders, the approximately 20 mile extension of the Onondaga Trail, as a branch of the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) and as a segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) has finally been completed over the past few years. The actual construction of the trail was relatively easy compared to the dynamics of gaining approval of this route. Because we were unable to secure private landowner permission to carry the trail just .02 mile over an old abandoned road, a long road walk of 1.6 miles close to the Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area near New Woodstock has become the present route, but it is outstandingly scenic. Come and see for yourself at the Spring Outing next year in Cazenovia (May 31, June 1 and 2). In the meantime Mary Coffin is now organizing hikes on these trails designed to attract local residents so that they can learn how to access them close to their homes.



▲ ▲ View of Labrador Pond from Jones Hill on Map O1

▲ Trail workers on the extension of the Onondaga Trail. Author Dick Lightcap in right front. Notice the clinometer in use by the last person: this ADK chapter made sure their grades on the new trail did not exceed 10% per good trail building standards.

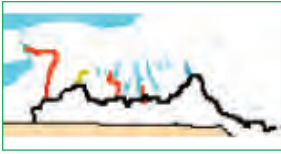
The Skyline Trail, southeast of Syracuse and a branch off the original Onondaga Trail, is now completed, too. It starts in the College of Environmental Science and Forestry's Heiberg Memorial Forest near Tully, runs through Kettlebail State Forest (with its beaver pond and creeks), and descends into the Labrador Hollow Unique Area (where you will find a cabin, restrooms and a boardwalk nature trail). If you continue to its total mileage of 6.2 miles, completely on state land, you will arrive at Tinkers Falls and the junction with the Onondaga / North Country National Scenic Trail. Plenty of elevation change. Find this trail in the new inset on the Finger Lakes Trail Map O1. 🍁

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 650 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 (vanderze@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.



Answer to the Spring “Name That Map!” Quiz

▼ For our next mystery, let’s see who has been paying attention at the other end of the state:



▲ Terry McConnell, Tom Bryden, Ed Sidote, Sue and Bob Bliven correctly identified the snow-covered “Ed Sidote’s bench” on Map M23, near the upcoming Alley Cat #4 shelter project in New Michigan State Forest. The photo was by Warren Johnsen.



Irene Szabo

NAME THAT MAP!

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

Jacqui at jwensich@rochester.rr.com

2013 Wally Wood “Rainbow” Hike

Alex Gonzalez

Sixteen hikers, including the leaders, turned out for this year’s Wally Wood hike. Although publicized as “dog-friendly,” the hike involved only two dogs, both of whom Joe Dabes, their “father,” returned to his truck very early in the hike; Joe rejoined us soon after, for what turned out to be essentially a dogless hike. Eleven hikers completed the entire 9.4 miles of the Rainbow Hike, while five others bailed out early at various points. With so many trail junctions, bailout points were abundant.

The hike got its name because of the rainbow of trail-blaze colors: yellow (Lithuanian Loop), green (Irish Loop), white (FLT), blue (Kuzia Cutoff), and orange (Dabes Diversion Loop). We had one Romanian hiker, who demanded to know, kidingly, why there was no Romanian Loop Trail! I told him to be patient.

If the hike had a unifying theme, it was the effort to have fun while keeping warm. Temperatures remained in the mid-forties for the entire hike, and the consistently brisk wind made us feel even colder. Uphills were heartily welcomed, while downhill were a cause only for dismay. That’s some switch. 🍁

Photos by
Larry Blumberg

► Alex and Michelle Gonzalez, creators and obsessive caretakers of the colorfully blazed International Loop Trails, led this year’s Wally Wood Spring Hike on May 25th.



▲ Foxfire shelter on Map M19

▼ Huge pink lady slippers



Operational Leadership - NPS

Marty Howden

This spring I attended the National Park Service/North Country Trail Association Operational Leadership training in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Operational Leadership is not a replacement for a safety program; instead it's a risk management program designed to prevent or mitigate risk associated with human error. Operational Leadership is about each individual becoming a leader within his job description, taking responsibility for his own safety and the safety of those around him or her. OL will provide our volunteers with the tools to become more aware of the risks involved and how to mitigate those risks. The training also promotes planning, briefing, and debriefing for the projects and work details that we do.

The goal now is to get this training to the trail stewards, sponsors, and work groups. Like the NPS we could phase this in a little at a time with the risk assessment tools being the first part so our volunteers can use them this year. We could distribute this information through the *Trail Tender News* (the

FLT's newsletter for trail workers), our pre-work tailgate sessions, and the web site. We will also get a digital version of the student workbook to have available. Dan Watson (NPS) will follow up with some handouts and some further training.

While this gives us another tool to help keep us safe it all comes down to everyone being aware of their surroundings and the possible dangers we face. We have a very good safety record and good policies in place but we can always improve. Most importantly we have a group of volunteers who look out for each other. This training just is one part in the big safety picture and is not to be a burden; instead it's just another way to help us get back off the trail and home safely. 🍁

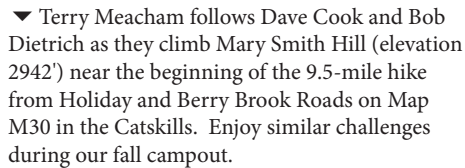


Operational Risk Management Analysis (ORMA)		
<i>Rate 1-10 → Any category rated > 5 should receive specific mitigation</i>		
1. Supervision	<i>Presence of, qualified, accessibility & effectiveness. Clear chain of command?</i>	
2. Planning	<i>Information available & clear, adequate time to plan, SOP's, pre-plans, brief's, team input solicited?</i>	
3. Contingency Resources	<i>MOU's and planning in place. Shared communications plan?</i>	
4. Communication	<i>Radio communications, environment that values input, de-confliction?</i>	
5. Team Selection	<i>Level of training and experience. Cohesiveness & atmosphere that values input?</i>	
6. Team Fitness	<i>Physical & Mental state of the team? Consider rest, fatigue, morale, outside distractions?</i>	
7. Environment	<i>Threats, time of day, extreme temperatures, elevation, difficulty of terrain, remoteness?</i>	
8. Incident Complexity	<i>Exposure time, severity & probability of mishap, potential for taxing staffing levels?</i>	
Green (1-35)	Amber (36-60)	Red (61-80)

SEVERITY × PROBABILITY × EXPOSURE (SPE)		
SEVERITY	PROBABILITY	EXPOSURE
1. None or slight	1. Impossible or remote in any conditions	1. None or below average
2. Minimal	2. Unlikely under normal conditions	2. Average
3. Significant	3. About 50 / 50	3. Above average
4. Major	4. Greater than 50%	4. Great
5. Catastrophic	5. Very likely to happen	
VALUES	RISK LEVEL	ACTION
80-100	Very High	Discontinue, Stop
60-79	High	Immediate Correction
40-59	Substantial	Correction Required
20-39	Possible	Attention Needed
1-19	Slight	Possibly Acceptable

◀ ▲ Risk Assessment Cards to help volunteers consider the dangers of each day's tasks.

Reminder
FLTC Policy:
Dogs should be kept on a leash at all times.



DeRuyter Lake, corners of East Lake Rd. and Dam Rd.; Village of DeRuyter, Madison County, New York State 13052. Twenty (20) scenic acres of land rising in elevation from road level of ~1300 ft. to ~1700 ft., with both sharp and gentle features. Overlooks beautiful DeRuyter Lake and valley. The footprint is negotiable, subject to the agreed selling price of this parcel, \$3500 per acre. A smaller lot will not be considered.

Please contact:
Frank A. Caputo
315-427-6288
264 East Lake Road
P. O. Box 398
DeRuyter, NY 13052-0398
frankacaputo@gmail.com

Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc.
6111 Visitor Center Road
Mt. Morris, NY 14510

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**Alder Lake in autumn, taken from the Finger Lakes Trail.
Hike here yourself in October during our fall campout in the Catskills.**

Photo by Warren Johnsen

