

Finger Lakes Trail

NEWS

Winter 2013



Inside...

- * *New Pharsalia Woods Shelter in Chenango County*
- * *Winter End-to-Enders Succeeds!*
- * *Great Hike Stories From Ambitious Walkers*



President's Message

Pat Monahan

Winter is one of the more enjoyable seasons for me. I find that bundling up in layers, putting on snow shoes, and heading out into the quiet state forest near my home gives me a sense of relaxation. The sight of an occasional deer or bird hunting for nourishment awaits my visit as well as some spectacular views across valleys or the sight of a frozen waterfall not to be seen in other times of the year. Admittedly, I am not a fan of shoveling those piles of snowflakes. Wouldn't it be thrilling if someone could devise a way for the snow to fall everywhere except driveways, roads and sidewalks? Then, even those who rarely experience snow would marvel from afar!

I attended a regional Trail Maintainers' meeting in Bath in the late fall. There were twenty-some dedicated volunteers around the table who spend hundreds (maybe thousands) of hours year round keeping our trail system in great shape. In my role as a Regional Trail Coordinator and Trail Maintainer on the Crystal Hills Trail, I learned about some of the tools of the trade, the value of a friendly smile and conversation with landowners. We also discussed the importance of trail easements to keep our trail on the ground forever. My thanks to those in attendance and all Trail Maintainers for their tireless efforts to keep the trail in tip-top condition all year.

Our Board of Managers met on November 15-17 at Watson Homestead Retreat and Conference Center (a landowner on the Crystal Hills Trail in the Corning area) for their annual retreat to plan for 2014. Some of the topics included budget development, long range plan updates as well as a focus on membership and marketing strategies for the future. I will report to you the results of this weekend in my spring President's column.

Our organization is recognized and respected throughout the region, state and nation for its efforts and work as a trail maintaining organization. We are an organization that relies on the skills and talents of individuals across the state and beyond to make our mission a reality. In addition to all of the skills required to build and maintain a trail, there are volunteers who

add their clerical, financial, food service, technology, marketing, communication and leadership skills to make us who we are. It is truly amazing! Have you considered volunteering?

Where is your niche in the Conference? Find out – contact the office and tell us how you can help support our mission.

Finally, I want to thank our members for your commitment to support the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. As we turn the calendar to 2014, you can count on the FLTC to remain a well-respected volunteer organization providing a premier hiking experience for its members and the public in New York State.

Shovel the driveway, travel safely and "Go take a hike!"



Board members Roger Hopkins left (our webmaster) and Quinn Wright (our treasurer) at the Board retreat at Watson Homestead outside Corning, working and thinking hard. Photos by Irene Szabo



Your trail care volunteers take a Saturday to share news, lessons, techniques. Here Bob Kremens gave a presentation on emergency preparedness from his extensive experience as an emergency medical technician and a forest firefighter.

Join the FLTC Yahoo Groups E-Mail List

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference's e-mail list is a discussion group hosted by yahoogroups.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.

Winter 2013

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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FLTC Office Hours

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

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COVER PHOTO

Photographs at dawn are often the best of the day, and Vinnie's willingness to be out there then, along with the mosquitoes and deer flies, gives him great picture opportunities. This was taken at 5 AM in May but looks like it should be a Halloween picture. Photo by Vinnie Collins

Photo This Page:

Mitchellsville gorge on Map M12, near Hammondsport.
Photo by Vinnie Collins

Pharsalia Woods Lean-to

Tom Bryden Photos by Jacqui Wensich unless otherwise noted

Two years of planning and preparation, along with a 3 1/2 day construction project, culminated in a structure that the Bullthistle Hiking Club is very proud of. From the log peeling project of July 2012, (10 Bullthistlers helped), to the site selection and preparations at YMCA Camp Thompson, this was an outstanding cooperative effort by the DEC, FLTC and Bullthistle HC. As site chairman for the project I had no idea what I was getting into, but Matt Branneman's reassurance and leadership made things go smoothly.

Matt, as Vice-President Crews and Construction, got us started on September 20th, but then had to bow out due to health problems. Mike Granger and Don Sutherland, FLTC Alleycat veterans, stepped forward and kept things moving smoothly the first two days. Bob Emerson and Ken Reek, experienced lean-to builders, came to help for the last day-and-a-half and helped finalize the process. Dave Newman contributed in numerous capacities, marking logs, and constructing the privy and firepit. Two hardworking lady Alleycats, Anne Dwyer and Tessa Careaga, outworked many of us, always seeming to tackle the toughest physical tasks. Jacqui Wensich and Donna Flood did their usual superb job of food preparation in gourmet fashion, from their headquarters at the Thompson YMCA Camp. Saturday night's dinner was a 96th birthday celebration for Ed Sidote, for which Jacqui had him select the menu.

I'm extremely proud of the efforts of our Bullthistle members, who were mostly novices as I was in lean-to building. Pete



On the occasion of Ed Sidote's 96th birthday, pineapple upside down cake was his menu choice.

Stapleton, Colleen Townsend, Warren Johnsen, Jim White, Jim Schmitt, Bruce Coon, and Art and Sharron Sandberg all contributed to a smooth running project. Thanks also to DEC forester Chris Sprague (a Bullthistler), who helped coordinate DEC assistance which saved us many hours of hard labor.

The DEC has decided that a local snowmobile club will take over the old Plymouth Lean-to and refurbish or rebuild. We will no longer maintain the access trail to that lean-to from Coy St. (only .1 to .2 mi. of blue side-trail). We will continue to maintain the blue loop trail from the main FLT connecting to Fred Stewart Rd., the Nine Mile Truck Trail (TT#5) and Coy St.



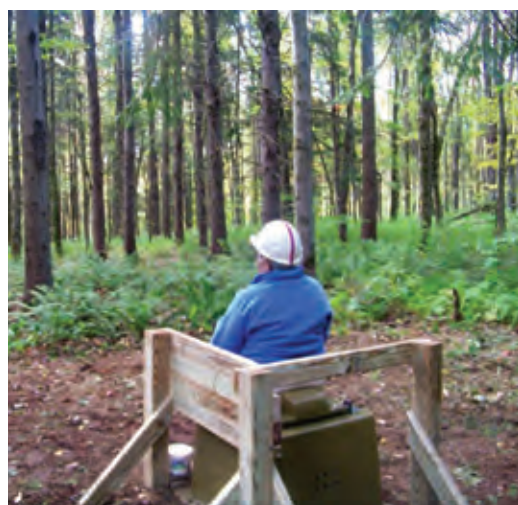
New Pharsalia Woods lean-to, with part of the crew beaming proudly.

Thanks to Chenango County's Board of Supervisors, the Jacob Papisch Fund and the FLTC for funding, and to the FLTC again for providing the privy, fire pit and picnic table. We now have a beautiful new facility on Map M-23, in the newly named Pharsalia Woods State Forest (no longer New Michigan SF), just a few hundred feet from the "Sidote Bench." Please "take a hike" and visit us in Chenango County. I know most assuredly that the Sandbergs, "trail stewards *extraordinaire*," will have the site shining.

► Tom Bryden, local Bullthistle Hiking Club organizer of this Alley Cat, managed to escape all of the on-site pictures, so just to drive him nuts, here is one that Warren Johnsen took of him on a group hike, when he nodded off during a break.



Jacqui Wensich and Donna Flood fed the troops at the YMCA Camp, on this occasion a full turkey spread, plus goulash because Tom Bryden doesn't like turkey.



New style of "open aire" fiberglass box privy.



Getting lumber into the interior is always a problem on these projects, since we never want to build shelters close to a road, making it too easy to partiers to get to them. So with DEC permission, an ATV was used to help ferry materials. Oops, as Lynda Rummel would hurry to correct this, a utility vehicle was used.

SAVE THE DATES!

SPRING WEEKEND IN CAZENOVIA

MAY 30, 31, JUNE 1

A combination weekend hosted by ADK-Onondaga for both ADK and FLTC, full of hikes, bike rides, and other activities, while staying at Cazenovia College, renowned for feeding us famously well.

Details in next issue of FLT News

My Hike

End-to-Ender #365 Dennis Dooley

To start with, I would like to give a “thanks” to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, the North Country NST, the various hiking clubs, volunteers, landowners, and New York State public lands for providing me with a rewarding hike. I have been backpacking since I was 17 years old, and have over 9,000 miles under my feet from hiking most of the long western trails, a major part of the Appalachian Trail, plus lots of shorter trails. I was looking at the FLT as something that could be finished in 2 months or less so I planned 6 weeks for this hike. In fact, a number of years ago, I had the idea of hiking the Bruce Trail (500+ miles in Canada) south to the Conservation Trail, south again to the main FLT, and south once more on the Long Path to the AT at Harriman SP. That would have totaled roughly 1300 miles. As it turned out, I ended up focusing on the main Finger Lakes Trail traveling west to east. My first priority was to figure out how to start this hike.

I live in Fairbanks, Alaska, but I have family north of Philadelphia, so I could rent a car to get to the trailhead. After doing some online research, I started to realize that I could incorporate 40 more miles into my hike by starting on the North Country Trail in Pennsylvania. I chose the NCT trailhead on US 6 near Ludlow. The town of Warren, Pa., operates a major car rental office across the street from the regional bus service terminal. This bus can be taken from Warren to Sheffield, Pa., about 8 miles to the east, for a dollar. I got off the bus on the stop farthest east in Sheffield, took out my “sign,” a sheet of paper reading “North Country Trail - 13 miles,” and stood along US 6 with my pack and poles. I got a ride within 15 minutes. I dropped the car off at 9:15 on a Monday morning (Aug. 12th), and was at the roadside trailhead at 10:50 ...Perfect !

Within the first couple of miles on the NCT, I came across a group of five forestry students brushing out the trail. They had started at the NY border and were working their way south. These five people were some of the 18 I met on the trail over the entire 600 mile hike. I did not meet any backpackers. I finished my first day out completing 14 of the 40 mile stretch heading north on the NCT. I crossed into New York, and onto the FLT on the 14th of August. I would end up

averaging between 18 - 22 miles a day, when I had a full day. My highest mileage day was about 27.5.

I planned to go “cold” (not cooking), on this trip. All the food I started with, and had resigned myself to eating, could be bought at most any store along the trail. And I would be coming across towns along the FLT every 2 - 4 days where I could enjoy a “real” meal. Also, I would not have the extra weight, or the logistics of buying and traveling with fuel.

I started with five days worth of food to cover the 82 miles from start to Ellicottville where I would pick up the first of three map drops. Rather than carry the weight of all the maps I broke them into segments, the second set arriving at Watkins Glen, and the third and final at South Otselic. I would allow two Kashi type granola bars, and a pack of snack crackers (6 per pack) for breakfast. I’ll take a break every 2 -3 hours and have a snack of 1 or 2 packs of crackers, some cashews/

peanuts, and a fruit leather or two. Dinner would consist of a 3 - 4 oz. pack of beef or turkey jerky, more nuts, including pistachios, another pack or 2 of crackers, and some raisins. Yes, I lost 26 pounds. All of my bags of food go into a larger airtight/odor proof bag called an OP Sack (Odor Proof). This then goes into my day- glo orange/pink stuffsack. The color was chosen for signaling in an emergency, and also you can find it easily in the woods when hanging it from bears. I kept my food in my tent because of using the OP Sack, and as an added precaution I put my rather fragrant socks on top.

I most always carry 4 lbs. of water (2 qts.). I use a Sawyer squeeze filter which worked out great on this trip. When I stepped onto the trail, my pack had 5 days of food, 4 lbs. of water, a pair of sandals, and all my gear and weighed right at 30 lbs. I sent the sandals home from Hornell. My hike took 42 days from start to finish, including the Penna. section, of which I had five “zero” days. I lost a total of 26 lbs. in a day short of 6 weeks.

I was looking forward to walking in hardwood forests again. Interior Alaska is made up mostly of black spruce and birch, with some cottonwood. As I walked through Allegheny National Forest I enjoyed the open forest, and the tall, mature



I took this picture at the Wiltsey Glen Bivy area on M21 from the rock bench there.

trees. I was a bit surprised to come across many wellheads tucked throughout the forest. I had read about the natural gas development taking place in NW Pennsylvania, but I didn't quite expect to find it in the National Forest.

One of several things I had to stay focused on was "what could get me out here." In Alaska, it's the bears, and not much else. I guess perhaps also bee stings, and to a degree, mosquitoes. On the Finger Lakes Trail I had the bad "things" ranked as follows... snakes, spiders, bees, skunks, bears. The area of Alaska where I live does not have snakes; there may not be any in Alaska. But while on the FLT I was constantly on the lookout for Mr. Snake. The spiders come into play as you are walking along a trail, mostly a few strands of webbing that you pass through all day long. Then there is the big, black, shiny type that hides in the Trail Register Boxes. I had one scramble out of a register page that MAY have caused me to scream aloud outside of Ellicottville. From then on I showed no mercy to Register Box spiders. Bees were plentiful in the many fields along the trail. Mostly honey, and bumble bees out doing their bee work. I did come across perhaps four yellowjacket hives in the ground along the trail. At one point, a day prior to Portageville, I was stung 7 times.

I was comfortable knowing there was the possibility of a bear encounter. I would wager in most cases, not all, the black bear of the area would turn and leave me alone if an encounter took place. I always kept my poles right outside of the tent door and was sure not to get food odors where they didn't need to be. As it turned out I saw lots of bear scat, a few tracks, but no bear sightings. I saw about 10 snakes, many turkey, a few skunks and porcupines, many deer, two eagles, four turtles,

one of which was huge; its shell was the size of a large pizza. There were hundreds of frogs, and bright orange newts.

I was using the FLT maps, and 2011 End to End guide for navigation, and mileage/town planning. Although there were several instances where there had been a relocation to which I did not have the current map, I was able to progress. I had some success using the Trail Conditions Update on the FLT website to get an idea of what changes were to come, but I found it awkward to do on a cell phone. I would recommend purchasing maps as late as possible prior to starting your hike as the trail is somewhat dynamic in its routing due to seasonal closures, timber harvesting, and landowner decisions. Greg Farnham, FLT Mapping Director, ended up sending me a few revised maps electronically towards the end of my hike due to relocations. Road walks were hard on my feet and back, but they offered a chance to see how people in this part of the country live. I enjoyed the pastoral setting as well as the old homes and farms that are 100 years old or more.

I enjoyed coming across the old stone foundations of homes/farms long disappeared. The craftwork of the CCC projects the FLT passes by are always remarkable. Landowners should be proud they are part of this statewide effort. It seems the FLTC has an excellent support group with advice, car spotters, and maintainers. There are just a few sections of trail that needed a little tuning up, mostly to brush back the multiflora rose bushes. But a good portion of this trail could, and should be enjoyed by families and individuals. I will spread the word to my hiking friends about the FLT. The FLT would offer hikers a chance to get their hiking "fix" in a short period of time compared to longer trails.

LOST LANDOWNER PERMISSION

...and we did it to ourselves...

Well, it has happened again: hikers' actions have ruined a longtime permission for us on Map M5 where the trail used to depart NY 98 eastward. We can hope the offenders aren't FLTC members, but nobody's laying any bets. Regional coordinator Marty Howden spent a considerable amount of time with some trail problems last spring trying to keep the landowners happy enough with the trail they inadvertently bought into when they moved there, since they had already been annoyed a few times. Thoughtless hikers let their dogs run loose right near the house, causing the owners' dog no end of anxiety, and one hiker even dared to criticize the owners for having some trees harvested on their own property! Can most of us even imagine such self-centered gall and nerve?

Marty and Dick Hubbard arranged some nicely made signs, one of which requested that dogs be leashed on the property, while another begged people not to park in the end of their driveway, both reasonable conditions for passage through this large property! Then as hunting season approached, the landowners requested that the trail be temporarily closed on their property. Another set of signs went up, and a notice was put under Trail Conditions on our website.

Yet it has happened again, and this time to landowners who were already feeling tentative about permission. The landowner tried to stop two different people from her position in a deer stand, but both times she was ignored and the walker continued down the trail.

This is heartbreaking to lose this permission, but nobody can fault the landowners, considering the treatment they have received from people using the trail. Just how much of such behavior can our trail permissions stand, before we have a 500-mile roadwalk across New York?

Marty Howden and Irene Szabo

FLTC Acquires Magnificent Nature Preserve

Tom Reimers and Roger Hopkins

The Finger Lakes Trail has crossed property owned by the Bock family east of Porter Hill Road on FLT map M16 for many years, southwest of Ithaca. In fact, the family granted one of the earliest permanent easements for the FLT.

On September 14, 2013, the Bock-Harvey Forest Preserve was dedicated protecting 48 acres of open meadow, transitional meadow, mixed hardwood forest, a special environmental protection zone, and the FLT. The FLT passes through the environmental protection zone which a local forester called "one of the finest stands of old-growth sugar maple in central New York."

The Bocks donated the land, which has been in the family since 1813, to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference for the forest preserve. The FLTC is also having the Finger Lakes Land Trust hold a conservation easement on the whole property that will guarantee protection of the land forever. The Cayuga Trail Club will manage the property and has agreed to continue to maintain the FLT and build and maintain a new loop trail and shelter. The Cayuga Trails Club also owns Rieman Woods on the other side of Porter Hill Road.

More than 100 family members, friends, neighbors, and representatives from the FLTC, FLLT, and CTC attended the dedication. After a few short speeches, including one by FLTC President Pat Monahan, participants enjoyed a short hike through the maple grove to the site of the future lean-to and back to a meadow with its beautiful vista of the Enfield and Newfield hills. The hike ended with a wonderful

reception at the former Bock homestead hosted by CTC members and FLT stewards Charlie and Lori Elrod. Closing costs and contribution to the FLLT endowment fund for the conservation easement were paid for by a gift from the estate



Dedication participants hike through the sugar maple grove on the future loop trail off the FLT.
Photo by Tom Reimers

of Betty Lewis, long-time CTC and FLTC member, leader, and trail builder.

Land now comprising the Bock-Harvey Forest Preserve was part of the Military Tract of Central New York used to compensate New York's soldiers after their participation in the Revolutionary War. This land and several other military tracts were purchased by Samuel Harvey. He then gave the lands to his sons including this farm to Silas Harvey, the great-great-great-great grandfather of Megan Barber who led the dedication ceremony of the forest preserve. Megan's great-grandmother Martha Harvey married Fred Bock and lived in the farmhouse now owned by Charlie and Lori Elrod. Fred and Martha's son Bob Bock, who attended the dedication, married Beatie. Bob and Beatie Bock lived in the old farmhouse, now beautifully renovated by the Elrods, and are the grandparents of Megan Barber.

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:
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Phone (optional):
Email (optional):
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm enclosing a check for \$23 payable to NCTA
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Name as it appears on card: _____
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Thank You

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Donor of land boundary research and property
information for the Finger Lakes Trail and the North
Country National Scenic Trail

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

After discussing it with Ed, we decided to have three categories for End-to-Enders. *Segments, Continuous and Backpacking* (added for those hikers who do large segments but not continuously. Everyone listed below is assumed to have done segments unless marked otherwise.

Contact: Jacqui Wensich
jwensich@rochester.rr.com
585-385-2265

Newest End to Enders

Main Trail:

- #359 Melissa Cohen, Honeoye Falls, September 9, 2013
- #360 Kathy Cronin, Binghamton, *Backpacking*, September 10, 2013
- #361 Michael Maue, Kenmore, September 15, 2013
- #362 Dan LoVullo, Grand Island, September 15, 2013
- #363 Pamela Henderson, Moravia, September 21, 2013
- #364 Sue Finn, Hemlock, September 21, 2013
- #365 Dennis Dooley, Fairbanks, Alaska, *Continuous*, September 22, 2013
- #366 Thad Lunceford, Manlius, *Backpacking*, September 30, 2013
- #367 Scott Brooks, Chili, October 5, 2013 (at fall campout)
- #368 David Keegan, April 24, 2013 (43 days winter *continuous*)
- #369 Jack Sexton, his THIRD time
(17 End-to-Enders in 2013 to date with more hikers backpacking than usual)

Branch Trail:

- #79 Kirk Doyle, Hamburg, September 19, 2013

Updates:

Mike Dumont of Rochester is making good headway on the Branch Trails. Clyde Morrison of Hilton completed the Interloken, Letchworth and Bristol Hills Branches. Trudy Senesi and friends from the Niagara Bruce Trail Club have completed the Letchworth and Conservation Branch Trails. John Andersson of Ithaca is half done with his second main trail hike (#101 first) and Barb Nussbaum of Ithaca is well on her way for her first main trail End-to-End. The "Intrepid Trio" of Rita Jensen, Jo Kish and Carol Romeo expects to finish the main trail by July 2014. Another interesting update comes from Tim Boltz of Hamden, Pa. He calls himself a "pedestrian tourist" and has spent about one month for the past two years on the FLT. This year he met Jackson Thomas (County Hike-Schuyler) and Nancy Luger on the trail. While he does not plan to hike the entire main trail at this time, he has completed substantial sections. He also made a sizeable donation to the FLTC; what a guy!

End-to-End #75 Ken Morgan

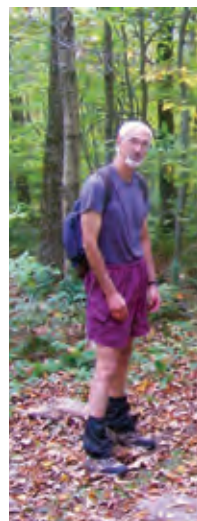
I finally met Ken at the fall campout where he led one of the hikes. On the long trip to the trail head, I learned all kinds of interesting things about him. Since he did not write an end to end article, I always wondered about him and why his number was in between Nick Vandam's (deceased) #74 and Jack VanDerzee's #76. (I looked him up in Ed's records. Time finished was the factor...see, it matters what time you finish!!)

Ken has kept very busy since retirement from IBM in 2010. He and his wife Lindsey have traveled extensively, including Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania (yes, he saw much of

www.FingerLakesTrail.org

Car Spotters:

We ALWAYS need more car spotters, so please email jwensich@rochester.rr.com to apply or find the form directly from the website. This includes the Branch Trails. Hikers and spotters: please take photos of your spotters/hikers and send to me with comments. I will add your comments to this report.
(For a complete list call or email above; car spotter list is NOT published on the website)



Ken Morgan #75

the Lord of the Rings influence in NZ). They hiked the Milford Track and Ken was planning to hike the Tongariro volcano, but it erupted and the area was closed. He always joins local hiking clubs as a great way to meet people with similar interests, and hiked often with the Koonung Bushwalking Club while living in Australia. He and his wife also are active in English country dance, a style of dance from the 18th Century (the type of dancing in Jane Austen productions). He has also completed the Adirondack and Catskill high peaks, almost all of the NE 115, and the Appalachian Trail from West Virginia through most of New Hampshire (much of it accompanied by Larry Blumberg).

TIPS for aspiring End-to-Enders:

1. Review the End to End Hiking section on the FLT website.
2. Join the FLT yahoo group (often find more spotters, specific location hints).
3. Purchase Joe Dabes' updated manual for thru hikers.
4. Purchase New MAPS (remember FLT members receive a 20% discount for all purchases).
5. CHECK Trail Conditions on the website frequently.
6. If you are not already a member, join the FLTC; membership supports this wonderful trail.
7. LET ME KNOW you plan to complete the main/branch trails.
8. Email captioned photos as you hike and keep trail notes so you can write your End-to-End article.

Sometimes I am asked to send out car spotters lists and give out all kinds of assistance to folks who are not FLTC members; I must admit that is a little irritating.

"Happy Hiking" from Ed Sidote

Walking through Time in Bainbridge

#31 in a Series *Tim Wilbur*



Paralleling Interstate 88 along the power lines on FLT map M27, one can look out from the trail on an idyllic view of the Susquehanna Valley. One can see a lazy river meandering through the countryside, cows grazing in the pastures, a sleepy village with cars entering and leaving past a couple of industries with large silos and the interstate highway with truck traffic racing by.

The peaceful village is Bainbridge, the river, the Susquehanna, and the countryside is predominately green with vegetation including that odd looking cell tower trying to blend in as a camouflaged pine tree. Another occupant of this valley is an active Class I railroad that has a history dating back to the beginning days of railroading.

From this high up vantage point you will hear northbound trains before seeing them as their horns echo through the valley. Southbound trains, with fewer road crossings, silently come into town, announcing their presence only just before entering the village limits of Bainbridge. Like a snake sliding along and through the canopy, the engines and following cars are intermittently visible. If the train is a piggyback or hauling containers, their silver and grey trailers will glisten in the sunshine. If it is a mixed freight train of box cars, tank cars, gondolas and hoppers, their assorted colors will rival any fall foliage day.

These tracks belong to the Canadian Pacific but the trains on the track may belong to other railroads' companies via track rights and agreements. Generally the engines give away whose train it is, and now that North Dakota oil is coming east in full trainloads of tank cars, we're liable to see just about any "foreign" locomotive here.

Track side, where the FLT crosses the tracks, one will note that these trains are moving at top speed, exhaust billowing out of each engine struggling as hard as they can to make time. The cross bucks on our Rt. 206 road walk not only have a set of gates that block the traffic when a train passes, but also an extra set of short gates that comes down across the sidewalk, one of only two such locations on our trail where this occurs.

Back in 1869, this general location where we cross the tracks today was a battle line between two angry mobs fighting for control of the railroad. On one side were the men representing the original builders and investors of the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad and on the other side were Jay Gould and James Fisk of the Erie Railroad staging a hostile takeover bid. From the A & S board room came legal wrangling with court orders, writs and injunctions issued by different judges favorable to one side or the other. On the ground, the A&S sent an army of men from Albany to occupy the train stations, getting all the way to Bainbridge where they lay in wait for the Erie men who were doing the same, working their way up from Binghamton.

Fist fights broke out between the two groups and the Erie men

retreated south to a tunnel south of Bainbridge to regroup. The next day, 900 Erie men awaited the 400 men of the A&S and again fist fights and clubs were swinging. Although outnumbered, the A&S men took the day sending the more disorganized Erie men scrambling back to Binghamton.

The following day the 44th Regiment of the State Militia was sent in to restore order with the Governor of New York declaring a state of insurrection and taking control of the railroad.

Although the ground "war" stopped, the battle continued in the court rooms with the final outcome ruling in favor of the A&S and the Erie hostile takeover bid failed.

In the following year the A&S leased their line to the Delaware & Hudson Canal Co. but kept its separate identity until 1944 when it was officially merged into the Delaware &

Hudson Railroad as it was later called. The D&H is the name widely associated with this rail line as it was the one that had endured the longest. It too struggled to keep its separate identity and did so through failed mergers, bankruptcies and relinquishing track rights allowing other railroads to ride their rails.

Under the Delaware and Hudson banner this Bainbridge trail crossing was the scene of a bad derailment in 1966 when the train jumped the tracks, killing several people and damaging many of the nearby buildings.

Present day the tracks we cross are under the control of the Canadian Pacific who took over the ailing D&H several years ago. Although the D&H identity is fading away into the history books along with its A&S predecessor, trains still go through this valley on a regular and frequent schedule.

Look for the occasional treat when a locomotive or car still painted in the Delaware and Hudson light blue and yellow scheme passes by. Their equipment has been sold or moved all over the eastern half of the country, even to the point that D&H cars have been seen in North Dakota near the North Country Trail! Don't get Irene started, or she'll make you look at her slides.



Our trail crosses the tracks in center Bainbridge. Photo by Ernie Mahlke

End-to-Enders Melissa Cohen & Sue Finn

It was a cold, wet April morning in 2006, when three friends, Kate, Sue, and Melissa, set out on an adventure that would take them from the Allegheny Mountains to the Catskills over the course of 8 years. Through those years life, friendship, and challenges have happened. The Trail was always the constant, the goal.

The County Hike Series kept us going. Each year we would anticipate the new terrain and scenery. We would read the trail notes with dread or joy depending on the route we were destined to follow. Mile after mile we bonded with new friends, sharing stories and secrets, not to mention thousands of photos courtesy of Jet. Thanks to our intrepid leaders, we learned some history, some botany, some navigational skills.

The County Hike series was usually predictable. It made it safe for us to venture into the wild. Safety in numbers. Not that there weren't a few surprises, delightful and tragic. However, some of the most memorable moments were those that I experienced traveling with friends along the FLT.

We first strayed from the fold for the Sullivan/Ulster/Delaware Counties section. A group of nine women spent a week in Clarysville, covering 50 miles on foot and many multiples of that on the back roads. It was the summer before the hike series was to come through and the trails were in rough shape. On that trip Kate and I were the serious contenders for an End-to-End.

I compliment Kate for being brave enough to join me for the next adventure, a traverse of Schuyler County. We had a couple of others occasionally, but it was really just the two of us finding our way through the fields, the woods, the gullies,



Sue Finn (short person) and Melissa (tall person) at Big Pond in Delaware County, October 2012 (photographer was a hiker named Kirk and his dog Scarlet from Hamburg NY, who subsequently earned his own E2E)
Photo by Kirk Doyle.

and, oh yes, the HILLS. We lost the trail only once and had to take the alternate route which of course was a mile or two longer.

Our plan was to finish the remaining miles of Delaware County in the summer of 2012. Kate, Sue, and Melissa would complete their End-to-End together on the last Tompkins County Hike. Unfortunately this was not meant to be. Kate had to drop out of the race. Sue and Melissa were left to finish alone. Last October I re-hiked the mountains of Sullivan and Ulster counties so that Sue could complete that section. Then the final push to complete Delaware was all that remained.

We had no shortage of adventures while crossing Delaware County. Averaging over 10 miles per day (One of them was about 16 miles due to an error in direction), we scrambled up and down hills, struggling with confusing new routes and one flat tire in the middle of a state forest. Another lesson learned from hiking the FLT...resourcefulness.

For my final hike, Map 27 in Arctic China State Forest, Sue was there to celebrate, as I was for her finale in Schuyler County. After all we had experienced, finishing was sort of a let down. We are not sure what our next goal will be. We would like to help our friend Kate finish her End-to-End. There are so many other trails and mountains to tackle.

My sincere thanks to all of the hike series organizers, hike leaders, and sag wagon workers who made my goal a reality.

Melissa Cohen #359 Sue Finn #364



Melissa at the conclusion of her end-to-end at Shear Rd. in the Arctic China State Forest. Photo by Sue Finn

Article removed at author's request.

Answer to the Fall “Name That Map!” Quiz

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



◀ Previous photo by Thad Lunceford
(#366) on his end-to-end hike in
June 2013,

M19 between Virgil Mt. Rd and Carson
Rd., south of Corland.

Correct responses:

Terry McConnell

Mike Tenkate

Ron Abraham

Chris Hotchkiss

Warren Johnsen



New name that map ▲

Photo by David Keegan who completed his end-to-end hike
in the dead of last winter.

You probably hiked by this lake in warmer weather.
Can you name that lake or map?

Luke "Strider" Jordan Finished the Whole NCT!

Mary Coffin

The end was in sight when Strider, Luke Jordan, passed through Central New York. He had accomplished 4,440 of the 4600 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail in 180 days without being ill one day or pulling a muscle or experiencing any injuries. He seemed to be a healthy walking machine on the adventure of a lifetime. When he completed this remarkable accomplishment Luke was the youngest at 23 and the first hiker to include the proposed Vermont extension including the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail Junction.

When Luke reached Watkins Glen, FLTC VP of Marketing Peggy Coleman had arranged a media moment as he walked through the village, resulting in area newspaper and television coverage of this part of his journey.

As he passed through Central New York on the NCNST/FLT Onondaga Trail, the Onondaga Chapter(ADK-ON) of the Adirondack Mountain Club co-sponsored with Highland Forest County Park a meet and greet reception and luncheon in his honor. Members of ADK-ON, CNY North Country Trail Assoc. Chapter and Finger Lakes Trail Conference joined together to congratulate Luke on his accomplishment thus far and to cheer him on to meet his remarkable goal of completing the longest National Scenic Trail in one hike.

Strider started out March 27 in snow at the western end of the trail at Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota then was stuck with snowshoes throughout April! He spent a year and a half planning his trip by pouring over maps, talking to other end-to-enders, and staging his weekly mail drops of provisions.



Ruth Dorrough said, "Old folks enjoying a leisurely exploration of the North Country Trail meet thru hiker. Pike Lake State Park, southern Ohio. What serendipitous fun!" Left to right, Ruth, Luke "Strider" Jordan, and Dan Dorrough, picture taken by anonymous passerby.

FLT end-to-enders Ruth and Dan Dorrough are taking a more leisurely approach to walking the North Country Trail, and to read some of their adventures in different states, you can catch up in "North Star", the magazine of the North Country Trail Association.

His extensive planning paid off and determined the success of his trip.

After the Highland Forest event, he spent Saturday eve at our home; after four large bowls of beef stew and apple crisp Luke slept in the same room as Joan Young, Bill Menke, Dave Cornell and Nimblewill but not George Washington!

And from a trail group at the eastern end of NY:

We met Luke "Strider" Jordan at 8:00 AM on Monday, October 14th and walked the final mile of his 4600-mile journey on the North Country National Scenic Trail, which ends in the east at the Champlain Bridge. We walked with Strider across the bridge to Vermont, where he was handed trail maps to Middlebury where he will continue to the Long Trail.



A view of "Strider's" immense pack just before he disappears back into the woods. Photo by Mary Coffin

TRAIL CLOSING NOTICE ONE DAY PER YEAR

In the interest of legally protecting those landowners who have permitted us to build our trail across their land, the Finger Lakes Trail System will be closed on all private lands for 24 hours on Monday, February 3rd, 2014.

The Forever Society

In 2007, upon the celebration of his 90th birthday, Ed Sidote gave a stock certificate to the FLTC valued at approximately \$1,250 rather than accepting gifts.

The foundation for The Forever Society had begun, and the FLTC's leadership made it FOREVER!

YOU can become part of our FOREVER legacy.

Follow those listed below who have given to **"what will become"** by joining the Forever Society! Your donation will be part of the special Sidote Stewardship Fund that is reserved for trail protection and improvement projects. Please consider joining today. There is no better time to begin FOREVER!

We are what we will become

Gene & Liz Bavis	Jarret Lobb	Roger & Ruth Hopkins
Don Beattie	David & Linda Marsh	John & Margaret Ann Schmitt
Stan Benedict	Terry & Kim Meacham	Dr. Betty A. Lewis
Howard & Dorothy Beye	Pat & Mary Ellen Monahan	Colleen Townsend & Harold Stapleton
Bob & Sue Bliven	Marjorie Pierpont	J. Joe Cobb
Helen Brooks	Ed Sidote	F. Gregory Farnham
Rich Breslin	Sigi & Horst Schwinge	Lawrence Lepak & Jennifer Woltjen
Cayuga Trails Club	Harmon Strong	Lynda Rummel & Rolf Zerges
Susan Collier	Irene Szabo	Phillip & Tamira Metzger
Peter Collinge & Carol Thiel	Triple Cities Hiking Club	Stephanie Spittal
Sigrid & Jim Connors	Jacqui Wensich	Nancy A. Luger
Joe Dabes	Peter Wybron	Ruth M. Kuhfahl
Phil Dankert	ADK Genesee Valley Chapter	Sidney P. & Mary E. Tuthill
Mary Zuk Domanski	Brad & Lance Alexander	Nancy Papish
Gail & David Ellsworth	Tom Babcock	David & Laurel Newman
FLT Bullthistle Hiking Club	Kenneth Shaw	Georgiana & Eugene Binder
Paul & Vicky Gaeta	Sally Bialy	Ron & Barbara Navik
Dr. David Gwinn & Gina Nania	Quinn Wright	William S. & Mary Coffin
Paul Hoffman & Jane Schryver	Anonymous End to Ender	
Barbara Lobb	Tim & Nancey Wilbur	

As we close out the year, won't you strongly consider a tax deductible donation into this special "Society" of patrons that directly supports our Mission of FOREVER?

Your Pledge:

An amount that matches or is greater than \$1250 as a single gift or paid through installments within a five-year period.

The Forever Society Pledge Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/St./Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Pledge Amount: _____ Paid: ☐ Now ☐ ____ Years

 (Signature) (Date)

Hike with the Executive Director

Dick Hubbard



The Nature Conservancy invited me to speak at a dedication ceremony for a newly acquired parcel of land in the West Hill Forest Preserve outside Naples along the Bristol Hills Trail on map B1. I spoke about the commonality of our missions that strive to protect land and water. Following the ceremony, Gregg Sargis, Director of Ecological Management at The Nature Conservancy's Central and Western NY Chapter, led a hike and offered insight into area land features. Pictured with me are Jim Howe, Executive Director of the Chapter, and Sue van der Stricht, VP of their board.

Photo by The Nature Conservancy



I was able to spend some time with State Senator Ted O'Brien (center) at the dedication. Here we are joined by local resident Jack Samter.

Photo by The Nature Conservancy

At State Trails Council, I explained the Hike with the Executive Director concept to the group, and these DEC people were able to get there. Sigi Schwinge, Tony Rodriguez, and Dick Harper from ADK-ON picked the hike in the middle of the state, here overlooking Labrador Hollow, where we all had great casual conversations about our respective concerns on mutual problems. Left to right: Pat Monahan, President of the Board, FLTC, Rob Messenger, Bureau Chief, State Land Management, Sigi, Dave Sinclair, Regional Forester for Region 7, McCrema Burnham, Stewardship Coordinator for DEC Div. of Lands & Forests, Dick Harper, Chair of ADK-ON Chapter, Peter Frank, Bureau Chief, Forest Preserve Management, and Dick Hubbard. Photo by Tony Rodriguez.



Friends who hiked in last year's Amazing One Day End-to-End 50th Anniversary Hike asked me for a reunion hike earlier this summer. This pre-hike picture, taken just before fording Sixtown Creek, marked the beginning of the six-mile hike outside of Hume on Map M6.

Photo by Dick Hubbard

Contact:

Dick Hubbard
rdh@buffalo.com
716-604-8380

Hike with me!

This hike initiative is open to anyone interested in getting out on the trail for a casual outing to see and discuss trail related matters. Trail Tenders, landowners, public officials or you and someone important that you know are welcome to join me on a trail outing. Call me and let's see if we can work out an agreeable time and date.

Who's in Charge Here?

Terry Swank

While hiking a while ago, I stumbled upon one of the most amazing, magical sections of trail I have ever experienced. Hiking on this section one early winter day, after a 6" snowfall the night before, in blustery 18 degree conditions, I encountered a problem. It's a good thing I usually try (not always successfully) to be prepared, even though it means carrying extra stuff.

The problem involved crossing a very distinctly marked section of stream that happened to be flowing pretty well. The crisp beauty of this stream was obvious, and because the crossing made one stand there, contemplating what to do, the hiker was reminded to pay attention, as he might just miss an amazing view or moment on the trail. And looking north, up the creek, it really was an amazing display of sparkling, cascading waves. My next thought was, "Wait a minute!" Would some funny trail steward make a creek crossing like this just for fun? Then I spotted the huge grapevine hanging down over the creek, eureka!, but it was anchored to the OTHER side of the creek on a tree. Bummer. So much for my luck. No sense buying any lottery tickets on the way home today.

I wear waterproof boots, but the last time I checked, 16 inches of icy flowing water, no matter how pristine, does not go well with a winter hiking experience in the middle of nowhere. So out of my daypack I grabbed two heavier-duty garbage bags and two huge rubber bands, stepped into the bags, carefully added snow grippers over the boots and bag (to try to protect the bags), added the rubber bands at the knees, and crossed the creek with dry feet.

It wouldn't have been so bad if there wasn't a little register by the tree on the other side with a notice posted inside that said, "A good vine is like a fine wine, but you can find them only about half the time!" Now, wouldn't you think if

someone was going to make a swinging vine ride over the creek, the trail steward with an apparent sense of adventure and humor would at least attach a retrieve rope or vine so you could pull it from either side? Of course any steward with a decent shovel and wanting a clean conscience could have simply built an underground tunnel, but I'll leave it at that.

Editor's Note: Terry Swank

had mailed me this potential article too late for the last issue, so I talked to him by phone about it and learned that he had been feeling rotten for some months. Not long afterwards, his brother Marty, whom I know from his deep involvement with the North Country Trail's Chequamegon Chapter in Wisconsin, told me that Terry had died.

Terry was end-to-end #77 in 1997 and served on the FLTC Board of Managers, where he was noted for his wacky sense of humor and flamboyant dress. For instance, he persisted in coming to our January and February Board retreats wearing sandals, shorts, and a Hawaiian shirt. Marty credits Terry with telling him about the NCT in his own backyard. At Terry's service, there was a table covered with pictures, including some from the trail, and FLT memorabilia, like Terry's end-to-end patch, while several people wore gaudy flowered shirts.

Now I wish I had asked Terry where this vine-crossing magical stream is on the FLT.



Terry Swank in the late 90's. Photographer unknown.

Welcome New and Returning Members

Emily Allen
James Bayley & Ann Moody
Karl & Denise Benedict
Gail A.Blake & Jennifer Dotson
Jennifer Blusk
Diane Bucino
Ron Burkhardt
Jan C. Chadwick Family
Doug Chamberlain
David Chapus
Tony Colella
Sue Corey
Karyn Giese
Peter Graziano
Chris & Mildred Herbert
Ian & Stephanie Hildreth
Jennifer Knight
Tim Koba

Buffalo, NY
Rochester, NY
Ontario, NY
Ithaca, NY
Syracuse, NY
Norwich, NY
Akron, NY
Bexley, OH
E. Rochester, NY
Rush, NY
Skaneateles, NY
Mt. Morris, NY
Honeoye, NY
Princeton, NJ
Susquehanna, PA
Rochester, NY
Geneseo, NY
Ithaca, NY

Douglas Kress
Daniel Linnenberg
Eileen Loh-Frontier
Michael Maue
Tim McDaniel
Pat Megliore
April Miller
Laura & Phil Palmesano
Steven Pearson
Mr. Ashley Peppers
Richard W. & Inge Robinson
Geoff Rose
Kristin Schafer
Mark & Ellen Sussman
Laurie Trotta
David Tuttle
William Young

Rochester, NY
Rochester, NY
Penn Yan, NY
Grand Island, NY
Hornell, NY
Mt. Morris, NY
Wayland, NY
Corning, NY
Eden, NY
Brewerton, NY
Geneva, NY
Hamilton, ON
Johnson City, NY
Trumansburg, NY
Morrisville, NY
Pittsford, NY
Pittsford, NY



Trail Topics: Reporting Trail Conditions

Steve Catherman, Vice President of Trail Maintenance

As hikers venture out again in the early spring, they should expect to encounter a few problems on our trail sections, maybe a washout or some winter blow downs and the occasional missing blazes that were on the trees that used to be upright. Our maintainers typically make their first pass sometime in April after the snow is off the ground and may have just not gotten to that section of trail yet. Or perhaps the hiker is out in the middle of summer, after the first mowing and pruning in June, but before the second cutting in a wet growing season, and has to maneuver around some multiflora rose. In these situations, please be understanding of our maintainers, but also please do let us know about any problems you encounter. Here are some reminders for how to prepare for, deal with, and report trail conditions:

1. Read the Trail Conditions section of the FLTC website before going on a hike to see if there are any reroutes or closures in place.
 2. Make sure you have the most current map for the section of trail you are hiking.
 3. If you do encounter an issue on the trail that requires a short reroute around some blow down or brush, be prepared to mark it with some specially colored flagging tape (not standard orange), with the knot on the side other hikers should pass on, and use two pieces for a turn.
 4. Contact the Trail Sponsor or Regional Trail Coordinator (RTC) upon your return home and let them know about the trail condition and what, if anything, you did about it. See the current list of RTCs below with their contact information and the areas they are responsible for.
 5. If you don't know who the Sponsor or RTC is, the best way to report the particular trail condition or issue is at the following address: trailreport@fltconference.org. You may also report it by phone to the FLTC office at: (585) 658-9320. Keep in mind that the office is open Mondays and Thursdays, or you can leave a detailed message at any time.
 6. Important items to include in the trail condition report are:
 - Date you encountered the condition
 - FLT map number(s)
 - Town, County, public land name (e.g.- Urbana State Forest)
 - Nearest access point, distance to road crossing, trail mileage, or GPS coordinates
 - Direction of travel, if it's important in observing the condition (such as blazing)
- The nature of the problem and your best estimate of what is needed to correct it, including the appropriate tools; for example, hand saw vs. chain saw.
 - Your name and contact information

All trail condition reports are sent directly to the RTCs and Trail Club Chairs so they can address the conditions in the most efficient manner. If a problem cannot be readily corrected, an appropriate notice will be posted on the Trail Conditions portion of the website.

CAUTION: While we maintainers often wish hikers would expend a little more effort toward picking up a simple big branch, for instance, that blocks the trail and putting it well OFF the trail, we do NOT want you to undertake true revisions or repairs. You don't always know the landowner's special conditions, for instance, and may make an unwitting mistake that is hard to take back. For instance, a father and son once came upon a major tree top blocking the trail, so they cleared a route around the mess, never noticing that they went onto private property and off the state forest, causing some quick letter-writing and fixes before anybody got mad.

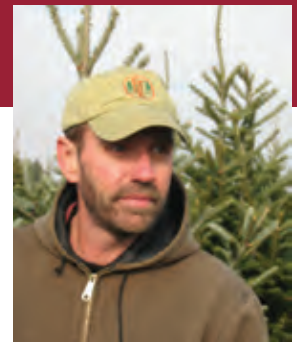
Please do not "help" by doing your own reroutes or, worse yet, reblazing by using spray paint. There are many reasons why spray paint is a terrible solution.

Worst mistake of all? Change something on the trail and never tell anybody! See reporting problems above. The sponsor needs to know, and the mapping director, and the Regional Trail Coordinator. Please communicate with us.



At the Bath meeting for trail care volunteers, Paul Hoffman showed us how easy it is to borrow one of the FLTC's DR mowers (equipment compliments of the National Park Service "bought" with our hours of service), which are marvelous machines AND, as Paul showed us, easy to load and unload from the family van. Here Bob Emerson tries it out.

Photo by Irene Szabo



Tammy Catherman

Trail Sponsor Changes:

Paul Smith has tended trail over six miles on Map M10 from Burleson Road west to Lain for quite a few years now, with his faithful sidekick Ted Rynders. They mowed field sections, tidied the woods, shepherded the new shelter in their one little state forest, and kept landowners happy but now want to be relieved. Knees happen. Fortunately Terry and Kim Meacham live nearby and are willing to expand their area of trail responsibility now that Terry is flush with the fun of retirement. Heartfelt thanks to Paul and Ted for their good stewardship.

Trail Sponsors Needed !

RTCs **Tom and Donna Noteware** are in need of Sponsors for three sections of the Bristol Hills Trail in Yates and Steuben County:

1. On Map B2 between Access 7 at Brink Hill Road and Access 8 at County Route 18: 4.4 miles of trail between High Tor WMA and Italy Hill State Forest that include a jump-off with a spectacular view to the south.
2. On Map B2 between Access 8 at County Route 18 and Access 9 at County Route 34: 4.7 miles of trail through Italy Hill State Forest that include the new Outback Inn and 2 miles of trail on the abandoned and drivable sections of Dunn Road.
3. On Map B3 between Access 12 at CR 75 and Access 14 at County Route 74: 2.2 miles of mainly wooded trail just east of Prattsburgh. This segment has been tended by the Brennan family for 15 years: Shawn became a sponsor with his son Patrick, then when Patrick went to college Karen began helping Shawn so we appreciate their long service.

RTC **Don Sutherland** is looking for a Sponsor for the 3.5 miles of trail between Bainbridge and Neff Hill Road on Map M26 in Chenango County. This section of trail features a splendid view of the Susquehanna River Valley.

RTC **Rick Roberts** is in need of Sponsors for 6 miles of trail from Downsview to the Campbell Mt. Trail on Map M29 and the adjoining 6 miles of trail from Campbell Mt. Road to Little Spring Brook Road on Map M30. Most of these 12 miles of trail are in the Delaware Wild Forest in the Catskills.

Regional Trail Coordinators (west to east):

- **Marty Howden** (585)330-1872 howser51@yahoo.com
M1-M6: main trail from the PA border in Allegany State Park east to Letchworth State Park; CT1-CT12: Conservation Trail north to Niagara Falls.
- **Ron Navik** (585)377-1812 ron.navik@frontiernet.net
M7-M11: main trail from Letchworth State Park east to Bath; L1-L2: Letchworth Trail

- **Lynda Rummel** (315)536-9484 ljrassoc@roadrunner.com M12-M14: main trail from Bath east to Watkins Glen; QCMLT-MFHLT: loop trails between Watkins Glen and Montour Falls
- **Tom and Donna Noteware** (607)868-4616 noteware@empacc.net B1-B3: Bristol Hills Trail from the main trail near Mitchellsville north to Naples and Ontario County Park
- **Pat Monahan** (607)936-8312 pmonahan@stny.rr.com CH1-CH3: Crystal Hills Trail from the main trail near South Bradford south to the PA border
- **Paul Warrender** (401)439-8285 paul.warrender@yahoo.com M15-M19: main trail from Watkins Glen east to Greek Peak Ski Area; I1: the Interloken Trail north through the Finger Lakes National Forest
- **Tony Rodriguez** (315)446-3586 boricua1037@verizon.net M20-M22: main trail from Greek Peak Ski Area east to NY26 near S. Otselic; O1-O2: the Onondaga Trail north to New Woodstock
- **Ed Sidote** (607)334-3872 esidote@frontiernet.net M22-M26: main trail from NY26 near S. Otselic east to Bainbridge
- **Don Sutherland** (607)754-9573 dsutherlandny@aim.com M26-M27: main trail from Bainbridge east to Cannonsville Reservoir
- **Rick Roberts** (607)746-9694 hikerrick2000@yahoo.com M28-M33: main trail from Cannonsville Reservoir east through the Catskill State Park to the eastern terminus of the FLT at the Long Path

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

Our sincere thanks for gifts in memory of:

Gerry and Sue Benedict

from

Phelps-Clifton Springs Retired
Teacher Association

Bob Muller

from

Ed Sidote

Trail Topics: Reading the Trail

Lynda Rummel, Vice President of Trail Quality

Reading the Trail – Why Those Shapes and Colors, and What Do Those Marks Mean?

Back in the old days early volunteers blazed trail by scalping the sides of trees with a hatchet. It's a lot different now, isn't it? The primary tools we use for blazing are a can of gloss exterior latex paint and a 1" brush. We no longer scrape the bark with anything more serious than the side of our glove or a nylon bristle brush, in preparation for applying or refinishing the blaze, although we may use a small smooth paint scraper to create a flat surface if the tree bark is thick. Although latex paint may not last quite as long as oil-based paint, we use latex paint because there is a slight possibility that oil-based paint may harm the tree, if the cambium has been breached, and also because the brush can be water-cleaned easily and then wrapped in plastic and stuck in the freezer, to use again another time.

We have spent a lot of time selecting the paint colors that we use. In fact, we've consulted fellow FLTC members who are colorblind to see whether we should use different colors; but in the end, the same colors have been reaffirmed as best, though not perfect. As you know, our palette is white for the main trail, orange for most branch trails, and blue for side trails. Exceptions include yellow for the Letchworth Branch and green and other colors for some loops when the loops are close together and need to be distinguishable. So that paint may be purchased locally, we've included a list of recommended colors by makers in the *FLTC Field Maintenance Manual* (find it at www.FingerLakesTrail.org → Members → Volunteer Trail Workers → FLTC Field Maintenance Manual 7-09.pdf).

Because orange, if dull or brownish, is not easily seen by colorblind hikers, and, in a snowstorm, white disappears for everyone, we try to use glossy paint that is truly bright (e.g.; safety orange) and then make the blaze edges very clean and crisp and the corners square, with no dribbles, creating a blaze that is truly rectangular, a shape not typically seen in nature. To enhance visibility even further, the background for the blaze can be painted black beforehand, or the blaze can be outlined in black. Then we enhance the blazes at trail crossings or every half mile or so with appropriately colored perfectly round trail disks, which now come in orange, yellow, blue, green, and of course white; again, perfectly round is a shape not common in nature, which helps you see it.

If the trail crosses a field, we put up tall stakes and paint the top the color of the trail or affix 2"x6" pieces of aluminum

or vinyl siding, blazes made from plastic political signs, or round plastic lids of the correct color. If the trail follows the tree-lined edge of a field, 2"x6" pieces of aluminum or vinyl siding or corrugated plastic or round, colored plastic lids may be hung from overhead branches. If the trail is edged with saplings and the landowner permits, vinyl, aluminum, or corrugated plastic blazes may be nailed or screwed to the tree, using aluminum screws or 1" common nails. Aluminum is used in case the fastener becomes embedded in the tree (it won't wreck a saw blade), and screws or 1" common aluminum nails are used because they can be removed from the tree if tended to annually



What does this show us? Double blazes tell us to look around for a turn in the trail route, but the offset upper blaze tells us WHICH DIRECTION to look in. This picture taken on Map M23 in Chenango County.

Photo by Warren Johnsen

common in nature, and be glossy and brightly colored. This tells you why blazes are never ever to be made using spray-paint; it doesn't last and the edges are fuzzy. Spray-paint is *only* for covering up old blazes, and for that, we recommend using one of the camouflage colors you can buy at the hardware store.

Hikers, if you need to mark an emergency reroute or detour or think a blaze is missing or needs to be enhanced, please use specially patterned flagging tape. Just carry a roll in your pack along with the rest of the stuff you take regularly. I use tape that has pink *glo*/black stripes or orange *glo*/black stripes, or is pink *glo*/black checkered. These patterns are easily distinguishable from the common plainly colored flagging tape found in local hardware stores and are pretty



Rolf Zeigler

easy to see in the woods. (*Don't use white patterned tape!*) Mark a relatively straight or meandering route with single pieces of tape, dangling it or wrapping it around and knotting it on the side of the tree that the hiker should pass by. Mark sharp turns with two pieces of tape, dangling one above the other on the side the hiker should walk by, or wrap two pieces of tape around the tree, one above the other, and put one knot in each direction of the trail. You can order specially patterned flagging tape from forestry supply stores. One roll costs around \$2.15, if you buy 12 or more rolls, from Ben Meadows, so buy a box of 12 and share the cost with your

hiking buddies (or get a roll free by attending a fall Trail Management Meeting).

But your emergency repair isn't done! As soon as you get home, please REPORT the field change, so that the trail sponsor knows that follow-up is needed. For instance, a tree crash can be cleaned up, or new permanent blazes painted around a change that cannot be fixed, and sometimes, with the landowner's permission, of course, the reroute will be big enough that a map revision is required. See Steve Catherman's piece on page 18 to see how easy it is to REPORT field changes.

In our last issue, VP of Finance Jarret Lobb promised our readers a series of articles on the financial picture for the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. However, since that time, he has suffered a serious health setback, so we await his recovery before the articles continue.

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

J. Robert Muller, End to Ender #5 in 1991, dies at 93

Irene Szabo

Bob Muller was an extraordinary figure in our lives back in the 1990's, the most dedicated trail sponsor imaginable, and incredibly helpful to others who were either trying to finish their end-to-end hikes or build new sections of trail. He adopted an ABANDONED piece of trail on Map M12 back when that map near Bath wasn't even published yet, re-establishing a nice seven miles from Sandpit Road to Newton, painting large perfectly squared-off white blazes with patient care. He even bought a little camper and lived onsite all summer at nearby Hickory Hill Campground so that he could work on his trail *daily*, rather than drive down from Rochester.

He accomplished the majority of his cross-state hike twice, by taking endless out and back hikes, until he started attending various FLT events, where he met people who helped him out with car-spotting logistics as he walked further east. Thus he became one of the first end-to-enders, just behind Ed Sidote and his hiking partner Rufus Perkins.

His ambitions after that included building several sections of new trail. The other half of Map M12 still didn't have any trail on it, so he and Sidote, along with Terry Giarrosso (one of our first 50-year members) and Hudson Close, drove to the Birdseye Hollow neighborhood on eastern M12 weekend after weekend to build miles of new trail. All were in their seventies then! Occasionally they were helped by a new local volunteer, young Steve Catherman. I loved working with them sometimes, especially because Terry always called me "kid." As I approached fifty, that felt good.

Bob worked full days from Birdseye Hollow south past
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NY 226, then joined us in the mid-nineties building new trail over a mile long to replace a road walk after a landowner rescinded permission, this now on Map M11 between Hughes and Burleson Roads. I always marveled that he could work a full day even though he was only a year younger than my mother. He also contributed many days to building the original loop that is now the nature trail at Huckleberry Bog on the Bristol Hills Branch. So it's hard to walk much of the FLT without enjoying the benefits of Bob's enthusiasm.

As the numbers of end-to-enders crept upward, Bob conceived the engraved name badges each of us gets, then funded them all the way through the current hikers numbering in the upper 300's! Now his daughters request memorials in Bob's honor be sent to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, probably the most beloved thing in Bob's life, other than his tiny dog Teddy who scampered three miles to Bob's every one.



Bob Muller, End-to-ender #5. Photographer unknown; we're just grateful Jacqui has collected these.

Our Summer Vacation

Terry McConnell

Photos by Patti Ford

My End-to-End project had been on hold all summer. With daughter Erin heading off to college in the fall, it is a bittersweet time, one hardly appropriate for long weekend disappearances while hiking the FLT. But then I have a brainstorm. Why not combine the traditional summer family vacation with a hike of Map M1 in Allegany State Park, one of the harder maps by reputation, and certainly the hardest for me, since it is farthest from where I live? The family graciously agrees, and we settle on a plan to attack M1 from a “base camp” rental in western NY. From there we can also hit some tourist spots, such as Darien Lake and Letchworth State Park.

A post to the FLT email list yields a number of good suggestions for places to stay, and we settle on the Stone Mountain Chalets near Ellicottville. (Thanks, Alex!) These chalets range from a very basic A-frame loft to full-featured houses that are fancier than the one we live in. Catering to Holimont and Holiday Valley skiers, these chalets are quite affordable in the off-season. Being thrifty sorts looking down the barrel of college tuition, we decide on the cheapest option. At \$68 a night, how can you go wrong? As expected, the chalet turns out to be basic, but it is clean, well-equipped, and the couple who manage it are very helpful and friendly to hikers. SMC is located a mere 2 miles from an M3 section of the FLT that passes near the tornado damaged part of Rock City State Forest. We arrive in time the first evening to explore the remarkable crevices and crannies among the jumble of large boulders that form “Little Rock City” before an early lights out.



The three of us in our shelter, left to right, Terry, Erin, and Patti.

the grades are only mild to moderate by FLT standards. A significant fraction is easy walking on abandoned roads and railroad beds. The main problem with M1 is inaccessibility and logistics. If you used a car spotter and carried a light day pack, it could be done in a day, but we had elected to use two cars with an over-nighter at one of the 3 lean-tos. The lean-tos are spaced about 7 miles apart, meaning either a long day followed by a short one, or a short day followed by a long one. I'm the sort that likes to get the hard work over with early, so the plan is to hike 13.6 miles with heavy packs the first day, eat, drink, be merry, and burn fuel like mad at the Stony Brook lean-to, then carry the (somewhat) lightened packs the remaining 7.5 miles on day 2. (Comment: the lean-to is called Stony Brook on the FLT map, but Stony Creek on state park and FLT signage.)

Unfortunately, I neglected three considerations: (1) I'm out of shape, especially for carrying a heavy pack 13 miles; (2) this is a family vacation, and on family vacations you want to have some fun. Consequently, we had packed lots of unnecessary stuff, wine, extra fuel, pillows(!), too much food, what I had taken to be a drop cloth that turned out to be an extra tent I didn't even know I owned, board games, a shovel, clothing for all possible types of weather, three season sleeping bags ... those heavy packs were REALLY heavy; (3) my daughter and wife, Patti --- incredibly fit distance runners both of them --- are not hikers, much less used to carrying heavy backpacks.

I am three quarters of a mile up the seemingly endless slow climb from Access Point (AP) 1. Both abductors are already killing me from my absurdly heavy and ill-balanced load. The silence behind me tells me there is dissension in the ranks. We're not even at the START of the FLT and already I feel like quitting! But grimly, we press on. Somewhere around mile 3, Patti complains that her feet are really hurting. She's no whiner... so, translation: her feet are really hurting. A bit later, on the steep switchbacked descent to



Will you look at that pack Terry is carrying?! No wonder everything hurt.

The FLT itself begins at the Pennsylvania-NY border where the blue blazes of the North Country Trail change to the familiar white blazes of the FLT, but it can be accessed only by a 1.1 mile section of the NCT that starts at access point 1 (AP 1) on a Pennsylvania highway. At 21.1 miles, M1 is a bit on the long side, and there is a lot of up and down, but



the first lean-to, she slips and lands with both hands in a patch of nettles. Her hands are blistered and red. I begin to sense there is no lean-to big enough for the three of us.

By the time we reach the first lean-to I am really concerned about Patti's feet. She winces visibly with every step. There are no blisters, no swelling or redness, so what could it be? Tendonitis? Fallen arches? Stress fracture? None of these possibilities suggest we'll be able to cover the remaining 6+ miles over terrain of unknown difficulty to reach our planned destination, much less the remaining distance to the car on day 2. There are, moreover, no good bailout options. The nearest ranger station is still 5 miles away. Patti discovers she has packed some Advil and feels better after taking some. It dawns on me (duh!) that there is no real need for us to carry the packs all the way to the car on day 2. We need carry them only the 2.1 miles to AP 5 and drop them in the woods there to be retrieved later.

Thus encouraged, we suck it up and continue, arriving completely knackered at Stony Brook lean-to around 6 pm.

(modulate to major key)

It is a beautiful place, and we have it to ourselves. The dried MSR meals and wine taste wonderful after the hard day's hike. Patti and Erin have a ball on a "spontaneous" seesaw they discover while I'm setting up the tent. We make a roaring fire with dried kindling some kindly previous hiker has piled in the lean-to for us to find. The dense skein of stars against the coal-black sky when I get up to pee makes my throat ache somehow. The silence is so absolute it is a palpable thing, broken only by the subtle trickle of a spring near the bivouac area. It is cold, crisp, windless, and I snuggle in the sleeping bag with no load at all on my shoulders. Could life get any better?

In the morning we are sore, but easily able to cover the distance to AP 5, where we stash and GPS the gear as planned.

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With no load to carry, the remaining miles seem to fly by almost effortlessly, and we break out of the woods in a sun-washed field above AP 8 well ahead of schedule.

Since we had dropped our gear near AP 5, the first order of business after reaching the rental car is to retrieve our gear, then on to the family car waiting at AP 1. Unfortunately, retrieving the gear means driving through one of the guard booths that cover all approaches to Allegany State Park by car. The attendant, a gruff-looking woman built along the lines of Roseanne Barr, will hear nothing of my attempt to talk my way out of the \$7 park use fee. Ironic. Had we shouldered the packs the whole way we'd have gotten off scott-free, so I have paid \$7 for the privilege of not carrying a pack. I could have stayed home and not carried a pack for nothing.

In the end it is the kind of family bonding experience through shared adversity that one comes to treasure.



*There's even a lady slipper leaf at the edge of that picture!
What a rich spot.*

The Journey of a Geocache on the FLT

Marlana Beardsley, Introduction by Lynda Rummel

The Importance of Hiking and Quiet Places

I've often felt that a day in the woods hiking and quietly looking for tracks, birds, hidden objects or animals could solve almost any problem or concern. And I've thought that this passion for having one's feet on the ground, being as close to the natural world as possible, was something that distinguished us – we birdwatchers, animal watchers, trackers, bow hunters, geocachers, letterboxers, trail runners, walkers and strollers, botanists, geologists, natural history buffs, nature photographers, local history aficionados, and other foot travelers -- from mountain bike and ATV riders and justified our desire to have a trail dedicated to foot travel only. But I really didn't know whether others really felt healed and restored by quiet time hiking in the woods. Now I know that they do.

Introduction: *I met Marlana Beardsley by email, when she asked whether geocaching is allowed on the FLT. I replied yes, and told her what she had to do for the NYS DEC, since it would be on state land, and the FLTC's Geocaching Policy. I also asked her to tell me about anything interesting that happened with this geocache. To my delight, she wrote: "The most interesting part is that although it [the geocache] hasn't had a lot of visitors, those who have found it have thanked me for bringing them there. Apparently, this [the FLT] is a little known trail and at least a few people have discovered it now. I love that I am encouraging people to discover a 'new' trail!!!" Her enthusiasm for the FLT prompted me to ask her if she might write a story for the FLT News. This is her surprising story:*

The Journey of a Geocache on the FLT

It all started about a year ago when my son was about to earn a geocaching merit badge for Boy Scouts. What is this geocaching, we all wondered? I typed it in to search and clicked on the first choice, Geocaching.com. I learned quite quickly that geocaching is a worldwide "treasure" hunt. Simply create an account and you can get started. A cacher needs only either a smart phone with the geocaching app or a handheld GPS device.

We actually started off looking almost right in our backyard without either one, using only maps and coordinates. We successfully found those first few and quickly were hooked. We bought a basic GPS device which we still use. It is a wonderful hobby for us. We have a severely autistic son and can't often get out as a family. Since he can hike, it's something we can all go do together. It's also wonderful for my husband and me to go alone. It's a free date and great exercise. We have discovered so many places and trails we never knew were there. We live in a very beautiful area and geocaching has helped us to discover it.

Because our favorite geocaching adventures have taken us to new and different trails, we wanted to place one of our own, to help people to find a trail they hadn't seen before. We took a look at the map and saw an empty area at the opposite end of a trail we had enjoyed. It happened to be in Sugar Hill State Forest. We went out there and simply walked until we

saw a spot that felt right. We hid our cache, got the coordinates and came home to register it. If all is well it just has to be reviewed and it will be posted. Well, I got a message back from the reviewer with further instructions and that's when I realized I had work to do. The reviewer told me whom to contact at the DEC and I did so, getting quick responses back. I needed



This picture just shows the area the cache is hidden in. I didn't want to give it away so it's very vague, but it shows nicely the wooded area you walk through on this trail.

simply to get permission and fill out the form. The reviewer was satisfied that we had obtained landowner permission, always required, and the cache was posted. We named it "The Octopus" because my son felt that where it's hidden looks very much like an octopus. Someone found it the same night it was posted!

Since then, "The Octopus" hasn't had many finds, only eight since June 16th. It was also found by some sort of large animal, though. I had started by putting it in a cleaned out peanut butter jar. Something large must have smelled that peanut butter and thought it would find a treat. The cache was found by a cacher, smooshed flat with all the contents on the ground. It must have been a larger animal as it got the top off, contents out and crushed the jar. I like to imagine it may have been a bear. That cacher notified me and I replaced everything for more people



This picture shows the lid to the peanut butter jar. I found it buried a bit under the new cache. It shows maybe teeth marks?

to find. The best part though is that almost every person to go find "The Octopus" has left comments about how they've never been there before and how beautiful the trail is. Some comments: "Nice trail to be hiking on." "Made the find after a nice walk through the woods on this great trail." "We have not hiked on this part of the FLT before so thanks for showing it to us." "What a great hike to ground zero! Thanks for placing a cache here." This was the goal all along, bringing people to a new place and I think we accomplished it very nicely.

Chestnut Lean-to Replacement

This summer one of the Alley Cat crews replaced the venerable Chestnut lean-to south of Ithaca after the Cayuga Trails Club demolished the old one. (Pictures of demolition in Summer issue, pg. 28.) Paul Warrender ran the crew, and yet another fine shelter was built with state forest logs using the well-refined design booklet done by Alley Cat regulars Bob Emerson, Ken Reek, and Joe Dabes. The crew stayed at the Lions Camp and was fed by Jacqui Wensich.

Don Sutherland took a picture that captured Matt Branneman using what has come to be called “The Mattilizer.” In order to line up lumpy irregularly shaped logs, one above the other for a straight wall, the center line of each must be determined with no good way to measure it. So Matt has invented this wooden doo-hickey which also can be used to transfer the center and width to the mating corner log in which a notch has to be cut to fit. He is working on a “version 2.0” but Matt’s father will be happy to make yet another one, even decorated as handsomely as this one. As Matt says, his father loves a project, especially for his baby boy.



Matt scribing the center line and lining up the outriggers on his father's Mattilizer. Photo by Don Sutherland



Construction underway. Left to right, Paul Warrender, Matt Branneman, and Peter Collinge. Photo by Jacqui Wensich



Roofing underway. Photo by Dave Burnett

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We encourage members to thank these businesses, which support the Finger Lakes Trail, and to use their services. Addresses, contact information and links to these businesses can be found on the FLTC web site.

Michael Maue #361 and Daniel LoVullo #362

End-to-Enders

Dan and I both grew up in Hamburg, New York, and separately developed our similar comfort in the outdoors through involvement with Boy Scouting, hunting, fishing, camping, and other activities. We met as laboratory colleagues at Sovereign Specialty Chemicals in 2003. It was with two other colleagues who were mutually interested in doing “some backpacking” that we became aware of the Finger Lakes Trail and the End-to-End program. In August of 2006, we began an adventure that would span the next seven years and cement our friendship forever. To complete the trail took twenty-eight trips and a total of sixty-one days of hiking.

Being occupationally obliged required us to hike the trail in sections. We typically used two vehicles and camped near the hiking area in State Forests and Parks as well as in private campgrounds. On several occasions we backpacked and utilized many of the lean-tos found along the trail. There were several trips for which the most convenient thing to do was to stay in a motel.

We got off to a somewhat rocky start, hiking only eight days in 2006 and 2007 and covering just over 90 miles. In 2008, we organized a high adventure trip for Boy Scout Troop 411 which involved backpacking all of sections M24 through M27, a sixty mile chunk. Dan and I followed that up the next month with a thirty-mile backpacking weekend, bringing our total to about 180 miles in 18 days. The 2009 season began and ended with an Easter weekend backpacking trip of sixteen miles. Compelling personal reasons prevented any further hiking that year.

In 2010, we made five total trips, some of which included my sons. By this time we had more or less established a pattern of day hiking about ten miles per day. We had found our rhythm for success and covered 102 miles in the year.

In the off-season Dan and I both had the fortune of positive developments in our personal lives so started the 2011 season with a short day hike with our new friends through Watkins Glen State Park, followed by a nice dinner in town and a day of wine tasting on Seneca Lake the following day. We figured this would be a nice way to break in the girls to hiking. Our ruse would prove to be unnecessary as Jamie and Dawn are both troopers and willingly accompanied us for the remainder of the trail. We covered just less than ninety miles in 2011.

We were able to keep up our pace in 2012 and found some exceptionally nice campgrounds, then started our final stretch through the Catskills with eighty-three miles to go in April 2013. We hiked additionally in June, July, and twice in August to set us up for our triumphant finish in September.

We reached the Denning Road trailhead at lunchtime on

September 15th and broke out the camp chairs from the vehicle to dine in style and comfort. We also retrieved a bottle of champagne from the cooler in the car and some glasses before hiking out the last 1.2 miles to the terminus.

During the seven years that we undertook this adventure we saw a staggering amount of beauty. From the hanging ferns and moss covered rock formations of the Allegany region, to the spectacular views overlooking the majestic Finger Lakes, and finally the breathtaking vistas of the Catskills, I can think of no better way to take in the beauty of the New York State wilderness. Between those sights were a multitude of tiny treasures that one cannot see or experience from a moving vehicle, whether it be a black bear standing in front of you a few yards down the trail, or the decaying foundation of an old farmhouse, or just a five-minute break on a picnic table in the middle of a golden hay field. We enjoyed some great evenings around the fire, watching shooting stars and satellites make their way across the sky. The vast majority of people we met were friendly and quite accommodating. Mostly we enjoyed each other's company and that of Jamie and Dawn as well as the challenge that completing the entire trail offered.

The Finger Lake Trail offers unique opportunities to enjoy the wild treasures of New York State. Bring your camera, bring your friends, but most of all bring a sense of wonder and adventure. Hike end-to-end at your own pace and keep going, no matter how long it takes. We trust that you will find the experience as rewarding as we do.



Photo by Mike Maue

FLT Winter Thru-Hike

David "Speaker" Keegan #368

David, originally from the Rochester area, started in Cortland on March 6th, eastbound to the Catskill end by 3/24. Then he took one week off, returned to Cortland, and hiked westward until April 24th.



Keegan himself at the east end of the trail.
All photos by David Keegan.

When I tell people that I walked across New York State, they think I'm crazy. Then I tell them that I did it in the middle of winter, and the looks they give me get worse. The FLT is definitely a hidden gem of New York, one which gave me a great tour of a snowy landscape that few get to see.

After doing several other long distance hiking trails, I wanted to try a winter hike, and I was going to be in New York anyway. The original goal was to finish the FLT, and hook up with the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail to get back to the Appalachian Trail. While the conditions and timing didn't quite work out for that, I still got to experience the entire FLT, watching waist deep snow melt down into spring.

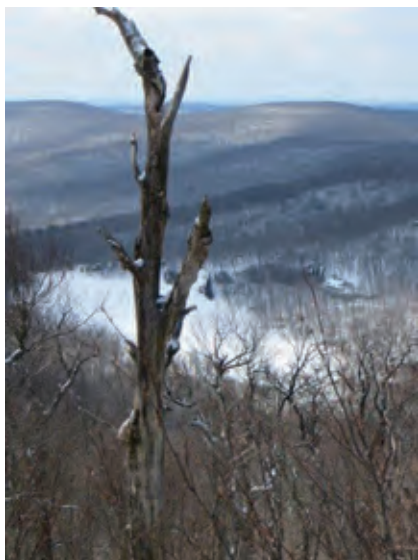
Most of the time I aimed to sleep in the various lean-tos along the trail, and would often adjust daily mileage accordingly.

These offered a snow-free place to stay, and often a firepit. When the mileage didn't work out, I would stamp down a flat spot of snow big enough for my tent, and then set up as usual. I had a ground cloth, tent, sleeping pad, sleeping bag, and sleeping bag liner, along with additional clothing layers, like long underwear, etc., that I would wear as needed. The main problem was frozen boots, since they were eternally wet. I would usually untie and loosen the entire boot before sleeping, so I could at least get my foot into it in the morning. I tried having them in the bottom of my sleeping bag at night, but didn't like the cold they brought.

I ate normal backpacking food, including a lot of rice and pasta for energy foods. Also a protein powder worked well, making a kind of slushy with semi-frozen water. If I had a fire I would cook on that, otherwise I used a backpacking stove.

There weren't too many areas of frozen ice on the trail. If there were icier conditions Yak Traks or crampons might have been useful, but overall snowshoes would have been better. I would definitely take snowshoes if I did it again. Most of the first half I was postholing through knee deep snow, sometimes up to waist deep at higher elevations. I kept hoping for warmer weather, but for one of the storms I just holed up in a shelter for a day and waited it out. I carried a bunch of extra food due to the changeable conditions.

Over the course of the almost two month trip, I didn't see a single other backpacker, and only a handful of day hikers taking advantage of nicer weekend weather. I actually met more trail maintainers than other hikers. They spend a lot of effort keeping the trail ready for hikers like me, without anywhere near the glamor that the Appalachian Trail gets. I always try to thank them for their work, since they make my hikes possible, so a big thank you goes out to all the maintainers of the FLT.



Overlook above Balsam Lake in the Catskills.



His pack near the west end of the trail in Allegany State Park.



Here the trail is an undulating sheet of frozen seeps. How on earth did he walk here?



FALL CAMPOUT A ROUSING SUCCESS!

By Larry Blumberg and Roy Dando

Triple Cities Hiking Club

The annual Fall FLTC Campout was held from Oct 3 to Oct 6, 2013 at Camp Amahami, a Girl Scout camp located near Deposit in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains.

Over 100 folks participated in this event. They had multiple hikes to choose from covering a wide territory of FLT in both Chenango and Delaware Counties, including an opportunity to hike many of the newly relocated segments of trails in the Cannonsville Reservoir area which have been taken off road. Bicycle rides were also offered on Friday afternoon and on Saturday.

Evening entertainment included the Adirondack 46er organization's documentary *The Mountains Will Wait*. An exciting trivia contest, focusing on FLT-related questions, was held Friday evening in conjunction with an ice cream social, and on Saturday Jack Vanderzee entertained the group with a travelogue of his recent visits to Iceland, Alaska, and Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Hikers do get hungry, and this report would be remiss if it didn't mention the great feeding frenzy put on at each meal by the host Triple Cities Hiking Club, based in Binghamton. Meals ranged from an assortment of breakfast casseroles each morning through trail lunches to dinner-time entrees of freshly baked pizza, baked ziti, and barbeque chicken, along with plenty of vegetables, a variety of salads, and mouth-watering desserts.

Your host, the Triple Cities Hiking Club, again thanks all who took part in the Fall Campout; we are already looking forward to hosting our next one !



Fall colors along the camp's shoreline. Photo by Larry Blumberg



Roy and Laurie Dando load their tandem bicycle in preparation for the day's ride along the Cannonsville Reservoir. Photo by Larry Blumberg

Hiking 101 in 2013

By Kim Meacham

The Hiking 101 Series ended on Sept. 22 after completing four monthly hikes. The entire map of B3 was finished during this series. Bud Valley Campground in Prattsburg, which is conveniently located on the trail, graciously donated the use of their pavilion and grills for our picnic/ award ceremony at the end of our last hike. Just before arriving at the campground, we were surprised to find a large old bee tree that had fallen and cracked open to reveal a huge honey comb.

Prattsburg Bus Line provided transportation to the trailheads and as usual gave us exceptional service.

Nancy Crowley, Kevin Bray, Dave Newlun and Clyde Morrison completed the entire series.

The group decided to add one more "unofficial" hike over the Columbus Day weekend and hiked 6.2 miles on the Letchworth branch, which was awash in fall colors.

Stay tuned for next year's series, where we will continue with the Bristol Hills branch.



► The crashed honey bee tree near Bud Valley Campground, map B3, south of Prattsburgh. Photo by Kim Meacham

Passages

Mrs. Jean Pitt, one of our enthusiastic landowners and easement donors, passed away 7/19/13. She was very proud to host the FLT and North Country National Scenic Trail. She was very attached to the land as she had many fond memories from rambling there in her youth and even asked to have her ashes spread on the trail.

Her easement on Map O2 southeast of Syracuse on the Onondaga Trail is very significant as it allows hikers to access Highland Forest from the DeRuyter Dam Rd. She was a dear, sweet lady with lots of interesting stories and was a pleasure to talk to.

Mary Coffin



Photo by Larry Blumberg

Joe Dabes retires?

By Pat Monahan

Yes, Joe Dabes, aka “Java Joe,” has retired from his job as Regional Trail Coordinator (RTC) as well as his duties with our mapping team. Joe was the RTC for the Watkins Glen/Ithaca area for the last ten years. He also was in charge of mapping and trail inventory, most recently as Director of Trail Inventory and Mapping for a little over eight years. He has logged thousands of miles on the ground cataloging trail infrastructure like shelters, bridges as well as GPSing every foot step along the trail system.

Joe has completed ten end-to-end trips along the main trail, and received the Wallace Wood Distinguished Service Award in 2007 and the Clar-Willis Trail Volunteer Award in 2005. Joe will continue to be available as a resource and for special projects in the future, and continues to tend his trail section.



Joe Dabes on the stone bench built by Gerry Benedict at Tinker Falls. Photo by Quinn Wright.

Many thanks for your years of dedication to the FLTC.

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Triple Cities Boardwalk

By Larry Blumberg

Under the direction of Chris Snow, TCHC trail steward for the section of Finger Lakes Trail along Bear Brook near Basswood Road in Chenango County, two pieces of boardwalk over wet spots were constructed on Friday, September 27.

Bear Brook is on FLT Map M25, east of NY 12 and the Chenango River in South Oxford.

These two sections of boardwalk, one 12 feet long and the other 16 feet long, supplement yet another similar piece of boardwalk built nearby earlier this summer by Chris with help from an AmeriCorps group, supported by the Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps out of Norwich, who spent the summer doing projects outdoors all over Chenango County.

Many thanks to John Gerty, Dorel Homentcovschi, Scott Lauffer, and his daughter Catherine for their assistance in hauling materials to the site and constructing the boardwalks. The attached photo, taken by Chris Snow, shows an almost completed piece of boardwalk. In the photo are Dorel Homentcovschi (holding a piece of decking), John Gerty (screwing the decking to the stringers), and me (hands on hips, taking what must have been a well-deserved break !)

Scott and Catherine aren't pictured; they were off at the time looking for just the right sized rocks to use as levelers for the boardwalk.

Again, thanks to all, another trail improvement for us to celebrate !



Photo by Chris Snow

If you don't give us your new address, the post office charges us \$3.22 for each returned magazine!



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

FLT Honors Its Own with the 2013 NCTA Partner Honor Award

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) Honor Award recognizes outstanding effort by one of its own members, as chosen by the local chapter, affiliate, or partner. The Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC) recognizes Sigrid and Jim Connors as the recipients of the 2013 NCTA Partner Honor Award. Sigrid and Jim have been leaders in the Tompkins County area with their continued support of the FLT. During the last decade, they have been county hike leaders (Schuyler County), chaired two FLT weekends (based at Montour Falls and Treman State Park), Cayuga Trail Club officers (treasurer and secretary) and hike leaders as well as strong supporters of the FLT and North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT). The FLTC Board nomination was accepted without reservation to honor these two individuals who have made a considerable difference in recognizing the FLT as a premier footpath across NYS that carries the NCT. The award will be officially presented to the Connors at an upcoming Cayuga Trails Club function.

Congratulations to two great supporters of our trail.

Pat Monahan



*Jim and Sigrid tending to registration at the 2012 fall weekend at Robert Treman State Park.
Photo by Jacqui Wensich*

OUR FIRST 50 YEAR MEMBERS!

We have no living members from the original year of 1962 for the Finger Lakes Trail Conference; however, this year our first 50 year membership patch rockers were mailed to two 1963 members, Terry Giarrosso of Syracuse and Mr. and Mrs. Jan Chadwick from Ohio. The Chadwicks have lived out of state for a long time, but Terry has been an active trail builder and expert procurer of landowner permissions for the ADK-Onondaga chapter's section of FLT.

It was exciting in our office to need to order that new level of member year rockers!



*Terry on the occasion of her own Wally Wood award, in 2000.
Photo by George Zacharek*



A gift to the Finger Lakes Trail helps to protect and preserve the Trail forever.

Gifts may take several forms, such as MEMORIALS, HONORARIUMS, and PLANNED GIVING. Information about how gifts may be designated and/or for a brochure explaining the Planned Gift options may be obtained confidentially by contacting:

FLTC, Inc.
6111 Visitor Center Rd,
Mt Morris, New York 14510
585-658-9320 or e-mail
FLTinfo@FingerLakesTrail.org



During a Schuyler County hike, Pam Henderson, left, was toasted with champagne for achieving her #363 end-to-ender status. Behind her is Sue Finn, #364 same day, and they are being toasted by Carol Mallison on the right.

Photo by Jackson "Jet" Thomas

Faces of the FLT

Debra and Joe Borer

Age:

Joe 49, Deb 54

Birthplace:

Joe: Amherst, Ohio

Deb: Buffalo, NY

Residence:

Marilla, NY (though mailing address is East Aurora)

Occupation:

Joe: freelance toy designer with Drawing Borer'd, Inc., creating for many different toy companies including Fisher-Price, Tomy, and Hasbro.

Deb: LMT (licensed massage therapist) specializing in Ashitsu Oriental Bar Therapy. I use my feet for most of the massage!

Favorite Outdoor Pursuits:

Backpacking

Anything with wheels: riding our motorcycles (Joe: 1965 BMW R60/2, Deb: 1956 BMW R50), mountain biking, roller skating (Joe was a nationally ranked dance roller skater), hotrods. Note: none of these fun activities on hiking trails!

Other interests:

- Advent Chorale of Western NY, president steering committee – Deb

- drawing, especially cartoons - Joe

- Financial Peace University – a 9-week class on living without using credit cards.

- We just purchased a 20 month old Drum Horse filly that we will train to drive and ride. Our interest is the Marathon, a test of speed and endurance, along with the fitness and stamina of your horse. Even better, maybe she can pull trees off the trail for us!

How we “met” the FLT:

We enjoy long distance backpacking, always ending up on the AT or LT. (Well, there was that time going up Mt. Kilimanjaro, but someone else carried the pack.) We thought it was time to find out what was going on in our own backyard. Found out about the monthly Buffalo area ADK meetings and attended my first in 2008. There was Irene Szabo talking about her FLT experiences! I was amazed that this trail existed right in our backyard! Yes, I had seen white or orange blazes from time to time but never put it together that it was a trail. At this time the ADK Niagara Frontier Chapter was turning over care of their section to individuals. I was really excited about having our own piece of trail to take care of and signed up. I went home and painted this great picture to Joe, meandering trail through the pines, creating perfection for people to hike through.

The reality was tall grass, miles of six foot high brambles, and a tree coming down every week. The first year was frustrating, but we had excellent support from our “boss” Marty Howden

www.FingerLakesTrail.org

and truly enjoyed our weekly meet-n-greet with every nook and cranny. Now our section is like an old friend you see every couple months. The trail shows us what has been going since we last saw it, and we take care of it.

Relationship to the FLT:

2008- spring 2013 -- Trail Stewards Map M4 Access 4-5, Cattaraugus County

2008-present -- Trail Stewards: M5 A1-2

2009-present -- Car Spotters for CT, FLT for a 50-mile radius of our home.

2009-present -- Certified Sawyers

2013 – Refurbished the destination sign at M5, A2. Sign maintenance did not seem like something we could tackle. Joe sanded, restrained and patiently repainted the letters. We wanted sign-maker Bob Emerson to be proud and I think he will be.

Favorite Section of the FLT:

Ours, of course!

Favorite spot? M5, just before A2 – the cleaned up microburst!

Memorable FLT experience:

The 2009 Microburst! We had our section M5 A1-2 absolutely perfect. Two days later we hear a hiker found the section impassable! Impossible, we said! A few days later we went to look. We were in awe, about 5+ acres of unrecognizable landscape and impenetrable trail. Mature hardwoods had been picked up and dropped like tiddlywinks. With much assistance from the FLT office and a crew of certified sawyers we created a reroute around the section. A year later, while waiting for a logging company to clear usable trees, we created a semi-permanent reroute 1 mile around the microburst. Logging completed in 2013, route back in place, and we walked away with much new knowledge about the care and feeding of your trail section.



Smiling parents at our daughter's college graduation. Photo by Lee Oatey

The FLT "Erv Markert" Hike

The "Erv Markert" hike is one of four seasonal hikes sponsored by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference; the other three are the hikes named for Howard Beye (winter), Wally Wood (spring), and Ed Sidote (summer).

This year's Erv Markert hike took place on Saturday, Oct 19 at Highland Forest, an Onondaga County park east of Tully and southeast of Syracuse. The FLT's Onondaga Trail cuts across Highland Forest and made for a portion of the nine mile long loop hike taken by the group as we followed the park's designated Main Trail.

Fifteen hikers from across the state participated with this event, led by Karen Goodman of the Binghamton-based Triple Cities Hiking Club. Sigi Schwinge from the ADK-Onondaga Chapter also assisted with leading hikers.

While most of the hikers on this perfect fall day hailed from either the Binghamton or Syracuse areas, there were also some folks from Rochester, Ithaca, and Utica.

Please enjoy the pictures which have been posted to the Triple Cities Hiking Club's photo album titled "2013-10-19 FLTC Erv Markert Hike, Highland Forest" at

<https://picasaweb.google.com/triplecitieshikingclub>

Many thanks, again, to our hike leader Karen Goodman and to all those who participated !

COMING SPRING 2014

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Wally Wood Hike on part of the Crystals Hills Trail (Steuben County), a branch of the FLT

Leaders -

Debra Nero dn13@cornell.edu

Laurie Ondrejka laurie.ondrejka@ellucian.com

Details will be announced in the Spring FLT News Magazine and on the FLT's yahoo group listserv !

Thanks,

Larry Blumberg

(coordinator for the FLTC's Named Hike series)

LBlumberg@stny.rr.com.



The FLT "Howard Beye"

Winter Hike

Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014

Title of Hike:

Howard Beye Winter Hike on the Bristol Hills Trail, Map B1

Hike Leader:

Cate Concannon

email: catrina616@gmail.com, phone 585-880-4456

Hike Description:

This year's Howard Beye hike will take place on the Bristol Hills Trail. The Bristol Hills Trail, at over 50 miles long, is one of the branches of the Finger Lakes Trail. It is a lovely trail, with beautiful views of Candandaigua Lake and the surrounding countryside. It winds through hills and forests, as well as into the town of Naples and through three state forests and a wildlife management area. For our hike, we will begin at the beginning, Ontario County Park. We will hike or hopefully snowshoe (!) 6.3 miles from access 1 to access 3. Although snowshoes are not required for the hike, please bring them if there is enough snow. Pack a trail lunch and plenty of water. We will arrange a car shuttle prior to the start of the hike.

Meeting Location:

The parking area at Ontario County Park at 10 AM.

Directions To Meeting Location:

From the Rochester area: take 490E to Exit 29 (Route 96) Follow Rt 96 as it turns into Route 444. Turn left onto Rts 5/20/64 and then right onto Rte 20A. Turn right into Ontario County Park and proceed to the back of the park. From the South/Rte Interstate 86: take Route 86 to exit 37, Route 53-Prattsburgh. 53N turns into Route 21, which you will follow through Naples. Turn left into Ontario County Park at Bristol Springs, north of Naples.

Please contact the hike leader if you plan to join the hike.



◀ Group hiking through Highland Forest.

Photo by Susan Blumberg

◀ ◀ New signage provided by ADK-Onondaga Chapter to help inform hikers that the Onondaga Trail carries the North Country Trail from the main FLT toward the Adirondacks on its way across seven states. Photo by Larry Blumberg

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2014 Calendar of FLTC Events

January 11Howard Beye Hike (see pg. 32)

February 1Deadline for Spring FLT News

March 8.....Board of Managers Meeting,
Mt. Morris

April 26First Steuben County series hike
(followed by May 17, June 21,
July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 13, Oct. 4)

May 3.....Wally Wood Hike (pg. 32)

May 10.....Board of Managers Meeting,
Canandaigua

May 30 – June 1...Spring Weekend, Cazenovia

June 1.....Board of Managers meeting,
Cazenovia

June 16.....First hike of Hiking 101 series
(followed by July 20, August 17,
and Sept. 21)

August 21-23North Country Trail Hiking
Celebration near Duluth, MN.
Details to come.

Sept. 19,20,21Fall weekend, Chautauqua

September 21Board of Managers meeting,
Chautauqua

FINGER LAKES TRAIL 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.....	\$50
Student (full-time; give		Trailblazer.....	\$75
permanent address) ..	\$15	Guide	\$100
Youth organization	\$15	Life (individual).....	\$400
Adult organization	\$50	Life (family).....	\$600
Business/Commercial			
(includes a listing on the FLT website).....			\$100

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

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*Even squirrels enjoy a nice picnic table while they eat up the seeds in a Norway spruce cone.
This register is on Map 23 in Chenango County.*

Photo by Warren Johnsen

