

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Fall 2016



Inside...

- ★ New CTC Trail
- ★ Letchworth Update
- ★ Hi Tor Bridge



FALL 2016

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!

FINGER LAKES TRAIL NEWS

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A Walk on the Wordy Side

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COVER/THIS PAGE: "These are vertical panorama images of the falls at Havana Glen. We stopped here at the end of the Saturday morning historical hike through Montour Falls with Paul Warrender during the FLT Spring Weekend. I went back to photograph it 6 a.m. Sunday morning when there would be no one else there." David Kotok

President's Message

Pat Monahan

I want to start my column with words of assurance that the Finger Lakes Trail Conference is healthy and moving forward. We continue our efforts to find the best person to lead the FLT as our next executive director. Quinn Wright stepped forward in September 2015 to be our acting executive director until we found the right person. Quinn and others on our leadership team have not sat by idly waiting for the next executive director appointment. On behalf of the organization, I would like to personally thank Quinn and the others for their dedication to the FLT. We have also expanded our office hours in Mt. Morris to provide more time for our members and the general public to access what they want and need from our organization. Thanks go to our office staff, Joe Caputo and Debbie Hunt, for quickly learning their jobs in the office as new employees. They are providing excellent service for everyone who contacts the office for assistance.

Let me provide an update for you on our executive director search. Our Executive Director Search Committee has interviewed several candidates over several months for this full time position. Several outstanding candidates were interviewed. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, we have not been able to make a recommendation to the Board of Managers. At the June 19, 2016, Board meeting, the Board of Managers decided to suspend its ED search for now. It has charged the Search Committee to reexamine the ED job description, benefits package, and the position's full time status. In the meantime, Quinn has agreed to continue in his role as executive director focusing on fund development. We will continue to grow and move forward.

At the annual meeting, I commented on several issues that I would like to mention briefly here. First, the FLT is fiscally sound, based on our 2015 full audit. Second, we will stay true to our mission statement to build a footpath across New York State. We also recognize that promoting and protecting the trail forever will require more attention and resources than ever before. This will require more time and effort from the Board, volunteers, and paid contractors when volunteers aren't available. The FLT is currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the

North Country Trail Association. Finally, The FLT is working closely with the Finger Lakes Land Trust on a land parcel of mutual interest. More details will be available in the future.

As I look to the fall, I am looking forward to our annual Board retreat on November 4-6 at the Conference Center at Letchworth State Park. This is an opportunity for the Board to discuss issues that require more time than is available during regular quarterly Board meetings. Some of the topics will include Board reorganization and strategic planning, specifically in the areas of membership, marketing and advocacy. The results of this retreat will position the FLT to better serve our members and the hiking community for the near future.

Let me end where I normally begin, with a personal story. In July, I enjoyed the heat along with the rest of upstate New York. I enjoyed it from my air conditioned office as well as under the canopy out in the woods. On one occasion, I hiked with over 100 others on the cross-county hike series in Cattaraugus County. It not only gave me an opportunity to walk on the FLT but also time to talk with fellow hikers about what was important to them. I commend Marty and Donna Ruszaj for running a well organized hike, from the buses delivering the masses to the start point to the cold watermelon served at the sag wagon, to a stop at the golf course restaurant for food and drinks at the end of the day to support local businesses.

Time is wasting away. Finish reading the magazine later and

“Go take a hike!!” 🍁



Join the FLT Yahoo Groups E-Mail List

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference's e-mail list is a discussion group hosted by yahoo groups.com. Its purpose is to allow the subscribers (approximately 650 people) to communicate information to each other pertaining to FLT hikes and other FLT 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), Jack VanDerzee (vanderze@ithaca.edu) and Roger Hopkins (roger@natural-highs.net)

To join the group, send a blank note to fingerlakestrail-subscribe@yahoo groups.com and follow the instructions for subscribing. If you have any problems or questions, contact one of the co-moderators.

The Palettes of Keuka

Story and Photos by Steve Catherman

Every summer for the past ten years, the Hammondsport Chamber of Commerce has sponsored “*The Palettes of Keuka*” as part of their summer long Art Tour in and around the Village. Local and regional artists create anywhere from thirty to fifty original works of art on huge 30” x 48” painters’ palettes that are displayed at local businesses in Hammondsport and the surrounding communities near Keuka Lake.

The Chamber produces a brochure and map for the event depicting the location of all the palettes and including a word puzzle for a chance to win prizes. The palettes are assigned a number and a letter clue which can be found only on the title plaques mounted at each palette on the tour. Participants enter the letters corresponding to the numbered palettes in the puzzle and unscramble them to form the correct words.

Typically on display through July and August, the palettes are auctioned off in September with a share of the proceeds being used to promote the ongoing development and presence of the arts in and around Hammondsport and Keuka Lake. The palettes can bring anywhere from a couple hundred dollars to several thousand dollars at the auction. Winners of the word puzzle are also drawn at the conclusion of the bidding.

Last year, local artist Scott Graham created a painting on one of his palettes featuring a section of the Finger Lakes Trail. It was a lovely piece of art that did very well at the auction and now resides in the home of one of our Trail Sponsors, Pete Nye, courtesy of his wife Marietta. This summer, two more palettes were adorned with vibrant paintings of the Finger Lakes Trail - “*Pleasant Valley Cross*” by Mr. Graham and “*Bog on the FLT*” by Beverly Falvey. The former depicts the FLT near Cold Brook at the base of Mitchellville Gorge on Map M12. The latter is inscribed on the back with this description: “*Walking the FLT between Two Rod Road and Bean Station Road (Map B3), the*



dense canopy opened to reveal this forest swamp lit with autumn colors. I paint to create a tangible memory. This image takes me to this place and the remembrance of walking the trail many times with neighbors Lael and Olivia.” Mrs. Falvey is also the artist who created the original rendering of the Urbana (now Pleasant Valley) Trailhead on Map M12 that has been featured in previous issues of the *FLT News*.

Unfortunately, by the time you receive this fall edition of the *FLT News*, the 2016 palette auction will be history. But it’s not too early to start planning for next summer to come to Hammondsport, see what the local artists have to offer, and perhaps acquire a piece of the Finger Lakes Trail to take home with you. 🍁

Trail Easements Percolating

David Newman

Several heart-warming projects are in process, but news of them must wait a bit longer. In the meantime, any permitting landowner who might consider donating a trail easement should feel free to call or email me; I’d love to talk to you about it!

The Sidote Trail Preservation Fund just received a significant shot in the arm, thanks to the generosity of Whitney and Roger Bagnall, longtime members who live in New York City.

Contact: David Newman
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Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright

Hello again, fellow hikers. I am still at the helm and will continue to be until the FLTC Search Committee comes up with the ideal person to lead the FLTC through some of the next 50 years. The FLTC has several challenges that must be addressed as we move forward and I have mentioned some of them before.

The Executive Director (presently me) will need significant assistance from the membership. The Executive Director is charged with three main tasks.

- Manage the overall operation of the organization; this is ongoing and is less intensive than it has been in the past.
- Increase development funding; historically that means finding fund sources through donations, bequests, and grants. I believe it also means developing additional revenue generating sources through a range of commercial trail utilizing activities such as trail racing, guided hikes and partnered activities with wineries and breweries.
- Advocate for the FLTC trail system. This means developing an awareness of the FLT through finding and maintaining relationships with local public and private citizens and businesses.

Managing the operations has become easier because of the expanded hours of the office staff, but more so because of the skills of the office staff, Debbie Hunt and Joe Caputo. Regardless, there remain one or more hours of the Executive Director's time just to deal with office supervision, routine emails, and phone calls. The FLTC is in the process of replacing its website; the current website is managed by a volunteer, Roger Hopkins, and he is unlikely to continue to serve the FLTC in the same capacity when the new website comes on line. We will need a replacement volunteer or the FLTC will need to pay for that kind of support.

Expanding funding sources whether through member/donor solicitation, planned giving, expanding personal and business memberships, or developing business revenue sources will take a significant time commitment and could require a person's complete work day. Any help that members can offer in these areas will greatly enhance our chances for success and lessen the time required by the Executive Director.

Advocating for the FLT trail system which covers nearly 1000 miles is likely impossible for one person to do alone. That is why previously I have sought volunteers to assist in this HUGE task. Exactly three people have stepped forward. The trail travels through 21 counties and we need many more volunteers to be responsible for these counties. With no help, this task is too daunting for only one person! Beyond this, advocacy doesn't have any direct financial income benefits until we are looking for grant support letters.

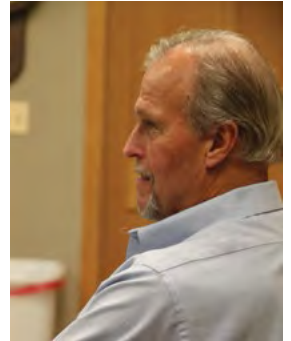
As I mentioned earlier, we are trying to develop data that can be used for advocacy purposes. Many of you have been responding

to the surveys that we have been sending out. The trail register books are being retrieved and the number of users by quarter is being reported; there are nearly 200 registers and only ten books have been returned; the data from these two resources are ***CRITICAL TOOLS*** for effective advocacy. When enough data has been obtained we will publish the results so that you will realize the real financial benefit that the FLT is to the towns, cities, and counties through which our New York State trail passes. The preliminary data is quite surprising and compelling as a positive contribution to the tourism fabric of New York State.

In summary, I will continue to serve the FLTC on a mostly part-time basis (25 – 30 hours per week) and I will focus on developing increased revenues to support a full-time Executive Director whose main focus will be on advocacy. If that person is to succeed, we as individual members and as an organization ***MUST*** provide volunteer assistance! Three volunteers are not enough. Please step up. I doubt any of you will need to offer more than 5 hours per month. If you can't help, please help us find people who can. The ideal new Executive Director will have skills at advocacy and financial development.

At this time I have committed to the Board of Directors that I will remain in this position until such time that we find the best candidate for the FLTC. As you may be aware we have been unsuccessful at finding the right person; we found three and the only reason that we did not come to terms was that the compensation package was below the industry norm. Currently we have suspended the search while we evaluate our financial options. The Finance Committee and the Board are reviewing what must be done to make it possible to attract and hire a good candidate and we expect to renew our search in January 2017. 🍁

Contact: Quinn Wright
qwright@fingerlakestrail.org
716-826-1939



Irene Szabo

**Donation for the Interpreter's Guide to the
Finger Lakes Trail - Ellicottville to Portageville
by Jennifer Maguder**

**Denise Maguder
Leslie Jefferson
Matthew Prineas**

See the website for ways to donate.

Adventures of an FLT Thru-Dog Handler

Marnie A. Phillips, End-to-End #407

The dog was getting fat (me, too). It was time to do some hiking, so on May 22nd, my husband Matt dropped us at the start of the trail in Allegany State Park. The third day found us huddled in a small patch of shade tucked under the Breed Run bridge, on top of a concrete ramp perched 50 feet above the I-86 interstate. Having made what was clearly a wrong turn earlier in the day, resulting in an unnecessary logging road climb, a bushwhack through shoe-sucking mud, and a deep wade across a water filled dike, I turned to my partner, a panting 50 pound pitbull splayed out beside me, sides heaving, and wondered what on earth I got us into?

Recovering a bit, we climbed out from under the bridge, and, happy to be back on track, considered the next trail junction. A wet, fairly open field ran straight along a power line, sure to be a direct path to where we needed to go. A mowed trail led left, consistent with the instructions, but the posted "PRIVATE, NO TRESPASSING!" signs gave me pause. Trespassing would be an inauspicious start to our hike, I thought. I spun in a circle, considering our options, and glancing over at the interstate where the road signs advertised that we were only a few miles from Salamanca, N.Y. Hey, at least we weren't lost. Suddenly a group of hikers emerged from the overgrowth; we were saved ... and learned an important lesson of the FLT: *When*



Shawn Bubany

Photographer Shawn happened upon Marnie and Alfred while they were visiting the fire tower on Balsalm Lake Mountain.

Once we got the knack of things, and learned to integrate map and direction information with the clues around us, the route finding went quite a bit more smoothly. And lest it sound otherwise, we found the FLT to be a superbly mapped, maintained, and supported trail. Its challenging nature (*aka* the reason we fell in love with this trail), is due more to the simple lack of foot traffic, which is also the trail's biggest attribute. To be so close to so many incorporated towns and private homes, and yet spend only two nights with company at shelters, was a remarkable thing.

in doubt, take the path more traveled. Later we would learn the important corollary: It might not be the right one, but it will lead somewhere.

Learning how to find the trail was one of our favorite parts of hiking the FLT, a trail and region of the state completely new to us. Like explorers we forged through walls of greenery, and like trackers we looked for clues. Alfred P. Dog, with his nose to the ground, followed his favorite scents (he was especially good at finding deer trails). I looked for foot or paw prints, and broken branches, and of course those wonderful white blazes.

This trail has a learning curve. It is so unlike our first foray into backpacking, a 430 mile section of the Appalachian Trail. That trail is so well trammed that shelters were like house parties, and I never once found a use for that compass. On the FLT, don't leave home without it.

Irises along the pond on Bill Morris Rd in Klipnoky State Forest west of Hornell (M9)



Marnie A. Phillips

The isolated nature of this semi-suburban and rural trail took us by complete surprise. I think it led to another favorite aspect of the trail, meeting the wonderful folks who live and work along the trail, and those who maintain it. In part because of Alfred P. Dog's endless shade breaks on the road, I spent quite a bit of time with lots of folks, and grew to cherish these encounters. I also enjoyed knowing for some folks, it was their first time meeting a backpacker, a backpacking dog, and especially a backpacking pitbull. When there are so few hikers on a trail of this size, it's hard not to feel like a spokesperson for the FLT. We greeted everyone we met. The folks on their riding mowers, the farmers on their tractors, the folks out gardening, or walking their dogs, mending fences, working on the roads. And of course we visited every snack bar and ice cream stand we could find. Many folks come from families based several generations in the area,

and it felt like common themes emerged. A shared history of tenant farming, foraging for food, going to school in a one-room schoolhouse, the loss of industry from the region, hard work, and the scattering of their youngest family members. So grateful to have a chance to meet such interesting and open folks, most of whom also offered us shade, food, and water. Also safety advice (I learned we needed to fear rattlesnakes, coyotes, bears, bobcats, unsavory people, and rain).

Folks were also curious. And the most common question was what, exactly, were Washington, D.C., area residents doing on the FLT? That's an easy one. We were looking for a complete, medium length long distance trail (500-1000 miles) that allowed dogs along its entire length. If you go to the website Wikipedia and search for the entry "Long distance trails in the United States," you will find 155 listed, completed trails in the United States. Approximately 20 of these are at least 500 mile long, completed and marked hiking trails. Of these ~20, I could find only two on which dogs are legally permitted the entire length of the trail. As the other trail was a desert trail, the Finger Lakes Trail was it! And how glad we are to have found it. Rolling hills of soft springy pine forest were gentle on our joints, and misty

farm fields yielded expansive open sky views that we just don't get at home. The final week in the Catskills is just the cherry on top, capping a great adventure. Thanks to everyone we met, everyone supporting the trail, and everyone who helped us along the way. We couldn't have done it without you.

It doesn't get any better than this. 🍁



Alfred P. Dog taking a much needed afternoon nap at the June Bug bivy site on M12 above Hammondsport

Alfred P. Dog's 5-paw Approved Backpackin' Dog-friendly Local Businesses on the Finger Lakes Trail

Backpacking with a dog is a real challenge, no bones about it. Keeping a dog happy, healthy, safe, well fed, well hydrated, and well rested on a long distance hike is even more of a challenge. It's not your hike anymore; it's your dog's hike. At your dog's pace. With all the stresses of the trail lying on your shoulders, and many of the hardships on your dog's. Some of our challenges included keeping Alfred P. Dog safe while trying to prevent chasing of deer and chipmunks, stepping on snakes, broken glass, tangling with porcupines, bee stings, slipping off cliff edges, burnt paws from hot asphalt, and heat exposure. Whew.

Which is why it's such a big deal to find businesses that are genuinely happy to see you walk through their doors. The businesses below went above and beyond in making both tired hiker and dog feel welcome. Please join us in thanking them by making a visit on your next hike. Tell them Alfred sent you.

1. Elkdale Country Club Restaurant, Salamanca
2. EVL Lodge, Ellicottville
3. Adventure Bound, Ellicottville
4. Windy Hills Campground, Houghton
5. Hickory Hill Family Campground, Bath
6. The Old H&E, Burdett
7. Octagon Guest House, South Otselic
8. The Daily Grind, South Otselic
9. Country Cream Ice Cream/Penguin Creamery, Masonville
10. Masonville General Store & Crescent Wrench Café, Masonville
11. Susquehanna Motel, Bainbridge

1. Dogs and owners are welcome to dine on the huge deck with expansive views. I asked for some fresh fruit with my \$8 sandwich instead of the usual sides, and out came a beautiful, huge arrangement of cantaloupe and fresh strawberries. Combined with the great bathroom stocked with essentials, and the cup of cold iced tea made "to go" the ladies insisted on, this is a stop not to be missed.

2. Tony diStefano of the relaxed and comfortable EVL Lodge has everything a backpacker might need. Big rooms, comfy beds, great kitchen and living area for making meals, emails, or just relaxing, as well as a huge beautiful deck with a gas grill, and expansive yard with firepit and benches. Great local advice, and several stores backpackers will find useful are within a few blocks (grocery, post office, cafes ...). Pets are considered. Alfred P. Dog enjoyed his own private and cool doggy shed to spend a day recovering from sore paws from road-walking.

3. Adventure Bound is a great outdoor gear shop that should be able to satisfy most of your hiking needs (gas canisters, clothing, gear, and a backpacking dog section!). Dogs are welcome and can even try on gear before buying! Alfred P. Dog got boots here. Luckily his pads toughened up and we didn't end up needing them for the rest of the trip.

4. Windy Hills Campground is family owned, and was purchased a few years ago by a hiker and dog-friendly family. We were greeted by the owners' three friendly dogs, bought popsicles and soda in the camp store, then got a free ride up the hill to our huge campsite right by the clean shower house, and were surprised later on by a gaggle of young girls who climbed the hill just to bring us soap, and a generous supply of firewood delivered right to our campsite. To top it all off, friendly residents invited us over for beers before dinner. Great place.

continued on next page...

5. Hickory Hill loves hikers and it shows. Make sure you get their special \$10 hiker rate for sites closest to the FLT. They held our mail drop for no charge, dogs are welcome, and the spacious campground features a nice pool and 24 hour Laundromat! Great for washing stinky dog packs...

6. It's a bar, but it's a dog and hiker-loving bar! Stop here for cold drinks and friendly local faces, free popcorn, and dog love.

7. Mike Sheridan, owner of the Victorian Octagon Guest House, took us in at the end of a long hot day involving a road run into town to make it to our mail drop before the post office closed for the next three days. This is a wonderful place for low maintenance hikers and their high maintenance dogs. Alfred P. Dog was spoiled silly. Mike likes hikers too...if you're lucky, you might get to taste Mike's special French toast.

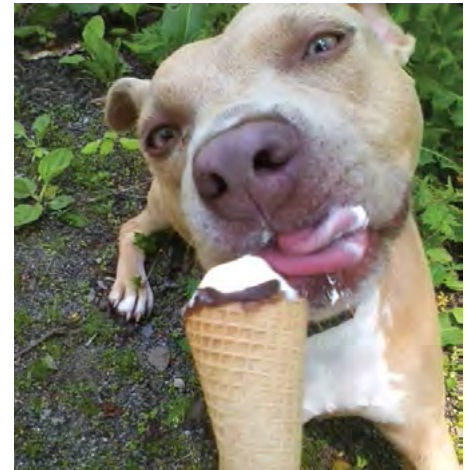
8. Nice super friendly and delicious local coffee shop and café with outdoor seating for the dog too. You know it's a good place when they make the ice cubes for iced coffee out of....coffee!!

9. I'm not sure we can say enough nice things about Gwen, the new owner of the Country Cream/Penguin ice cream shop south of Masonville. It's a little bit of a detour off the trail involving a nice downhill walk (that becomes a very sweaty uphill climb on the way back to the trail, but hey, you've got ice cream!). Backpacking dogs are beloved here. Go and be spoiled. Nice cool interior with bathrooms, hand blended ice cream and delicious juicy burgers made from local cows.

10. I'm pretty sure the FLT is the first time Alfred P. Dog has been offered gourmet sheep's milk yogurt, but he loved it! And waited out a rainstorm on the big porch while I enjoyed the interior café and the kindred company of the Masonville General Store's owner. On our way up to Getter Hill Leanto we ran into one of the trail maintainers for that section, and what a fabulously maintained section it is! I guess it helps to have an avid trail runner maintain a section involving a big hill climb.

11. What a sweet place, built and owned by a local legend, Dave Price. Ask Dave anything about the area including the yearly canoe race on the Susquehanna. This is a good place to rest. 🍁

Alfred enjoying an ice cream cone handed to us through a car window on the Sawmill Run road walk out of Salamanca (M2) Worry not: I ate the chocolate myself before turning it over to Alfred.



Marnie A. Phillips

Freak Wind Storm on Map M6

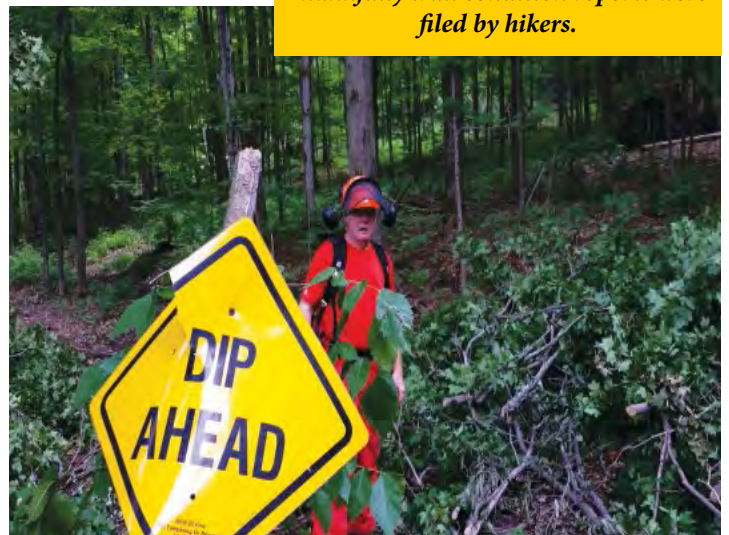
Marty Howden

In late June parts of Allegany County experienced damaging winds in the Centerville area. The winds caused several downed trees on the local highways prompting emergency calls. It also made a mess of my section of trail on M6, Access Point 1 to Higgins Road. Thankfully trail condition reports were filed by hikers who had a tough time getting through the mess of downed and tangled trees.

There were approximately 24 piles of twisted trees across the trail that needed to be cut through. On July 1 I was joined by Dave Potzler, Pete Wybron, Kevin Fridman, and Carl Guldenschuh to clean up the mess. I can't thank these guys enough for putting their sawyer skills to the test and making this section passable again. Also thank you to the landowners and land managers who gave their permission for us to go in and do this work.

The trail condition reports are such a valuable tool to get the resources to where the problems are on the trail. Hikers, never assume somebody already knows about problems, so use the "trailreport" function on our website to help! The link is in the center column of our home page.

Thankfully trail condition reports were filed by hikers.



Marty Howden

Marty couldn't resist lining up Dave Potzler with the "dip" sign from a snowmobile trail on the old railroad bed we walk on Map M6. It's clear to see that Dave was cutting away a big messy tree top from the trail.

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

Main Trail:

Hurray for new End-to-Enders #401 Willa Powell, #402 Gary Brouse, his second (first was #379), #403 Craig Summers, #404 Scott Vonderheide, #405 Joe Baldino, #406 John Ulrich, #407 Marnie A. Phillips (& Alfred P. Dog)

Updates:

Lydia LePinnet from Florida has completed about half of the main trail. She started in 1985 and plans to come back to finish and earn her badge. I warned her that the maps have changed. Those old blue hand written maps are practically useless except as keepsakes. Doug Parsons aka "Trippin" is hiking the main trail on Fridays, often walking out and back. Julia Jordan and brother Mark Snyder from North Carolina are hiking the Conservation Trail. James Fardette plans to resume hiking the trail once we get more rain...oh, well. Laura Smith and Katherine Mario from Delhi are making good progress.

To date, four County Hike Series participants plan to complete and receive their main trail patches on the last hike in September.

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 new MAPS (remember FLT members receive a 20% discount for all purchases). Waypoints are also available.
4. Check trail conditions online frequently.
5. If you are not already a member, join the FLTC. Membership supports this wonderful trail.
6. Let me know about when you plan to complete the main/branch trails to receive the correct number.
7. Email captioned photos in full resolution as you hike and keep trail notes so you can write your E2E article.

HIKERS: PLEASE ASK FOR THE MOST RECENT CAR SPOTTER LIST TO AVOID PROBLEMS.

(Just like our maps; things change). Let me know if phone numbers/emails are incorrect or no longer working. Do not ask spotters to take long trips. Ask other spotters according to the maps listed on the car spotter list. IF you need a longer ride, join the yahoo group to see if someone is willing, if you do not have a friend or family member available.

Car Spotters:

Two longtime car spotters passed away, Gene Cornelius and Hal Boyce. Hal, a valued ADK-Onondaga volunteer, was instrumental in assisting Theresa Evans in both her main trail and branch trail hikes. (See article about Gene elsewhere in this issue.)

New end-to-ender Craig Summers has agreed to become a car spotter at our west end in the M1-10 Map area which always needs more spotters. Craig also has the advantage of being able to share info from his recent thru hike.



Jacqui Wensich

Hal Boyce performed trail angel duties for Theresa Evans when she finished her end-to-end by giving her a ride.

Thanks to those who have become spotters. Car spotting is a great assistance for hikers, so accepting the offered gas money gives hikers a way to thank you back. Hikers, remember to take a photo of your car spotter and send it to me. We love to recognize our spotters.

Your assistance is vital to many hikers.

While we always need car spotters, we are in MOST need for who live near maps M1-5 and 28-33 and on the Crystal Hills Branch Trail.

(For a complete list call or email me below.) 🍁

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Gifts in Honor of

Harry Clar

Lonnie & Suzanne Clar

Big FLT Awards at Spring Meeting

Irene Szabo, Chair, FLT Recognitions Committee

Photos by Tom Reimers

All four of our usual annual awards were presented at the spring meeting in Montour Falls in June. First we honored **Vincent Spagnoletti** with our **Erv Markert Award**, intended for somebody outside the normal hiking community who contributes to our efforts. Vince is the Superintendent of the Steuben County Highway Department, our Steve Catherman's boss, and was the man who first spent county money on green roadside signs showing hikers walking into trailheads. These signs were a big surprise to many Steuben County residents, who didn't realize the trail was right THERE, and best of all, he continued to espouse county provision of such signs in statewide meetings, so has been directly responsible for their installation in several other counties too.



Vince Spagnoletti receives the Erv Markert honor

My own dealings with Vince over the last ten years have been sporadic, mostly by email, and never face to face, so imagine my delight during dinner with him before the award ceremony to find that he has a great sense of humor AND met his wife on a Hammondsport hike on the FLT! No wonder Steve obviously likes his boss.

Our members **Alex and Michele Gonzalez**, who tend miles of both main and loop trails in the vicinity of Map M19 south of Cortland to such a degree of excellence that Alex has already won the Clar-Willis Trail Work Award, have gifted our trail in



Alex and Michele Gonzalez, presented with the Garrison Award by Dave Newman, right.

recent years with several ways of protecting those very loops they created and tend so lovingly. The **Garrison Award** for special landowner generosity to the trail was presented to them for the several easements they have arranged for protection of their own trail work, mostly by buying either land or rights of way.

The Garrison Award is fairly new, honoring the generosity of past landowners Bill and Ellen Garrison, who were the first people to contact us first about donating a trail easement back in the mid-90s, AND built a wonderful shelter still enjoyed on Map B3 between Prattsburgh and Hammondsport. Both Bill and Ellen have died by now, alas. How I wish they could have seen how we continue to appreciate their generosity.

Paul Warrender was enthusiastically nominated by his own Cayuga Trails Club for the **Clar-Willis Trail Care Award**.

Not only has he been their trails chair over the club's considerable mid-state mileage, but he has been noted for his good relations with both private landowners and public land managers. He is organized, and attends to details to heroic proportions. And last June, in 2015, he



Paul Warrender received his very own McLeod and a plaque for the Clar-Willis Award

mobilized massive efforts to repair severe damage after torrential rains damaged much of the trail and its infrastructure, best of all in time for our fall *Rendezvous*. The Recognitions Committee did learn from his partner Robin that he really wanted his own McLeod, that wonderful whacking, chopping tool in his hands in the picture.

Finally, we awarded the annual **Wally Wood Award**, named in honor of the founder of our trail, to **Quinn Wright**. Quinn has been a mostly quiet, behind-the-scenes volunteer for years, but now has been thrust from his previous Treasurer position to that of Executive Director, to cover the period of time while the Board of Managers comes to grips with the real demands of such a job. Quinn had been on his way to this nomination anyway, even if almost nobody knew about it, because he took on Crews and Construction for a few years before Matt Branneman did, and his project notebooks are a model of organization and information. It's almost scary how detailed and organized they are!

Then Quinn took over the Treasurer job, surely a huge gift, and THEN last fall agreed to be our Executive Director until we

...continued on the bottom of the next page

Trail Topics: Mapping

Greg Farnham, VP of Mapping and Jo Taylor

Since the last report, in the *Spring News*, the mapping team has been busy. The following maps were updated in the month indicated, to reflect changes in the trail. The dates shown are the new Rev Dates for the maps:

M2 June	M20 July	B2 May
M3 June	M23 May	B3 July
M4 May	CT6 May	VML July
M19 July	B1 May	

Please remember to check Trail Conditions on the web site prior to every hike. Actual changes to the trail on the ground often require significant field and desk work before the map can be updated to reflect the change. Trail Conditions notices are used to document these lags between moving the trail and updating the map. In addition, Trail Conditions notices are also used to document temporary conditions that would not ever get documented on a map, such as logging operations, werewolf sightings, etc.

In addition to keeping our paper maps and downloadable GPX tracks up to date, the mapping team has been hard at work on an internal project intended to simplify the map maintenance procedure.

Contact: Greg Farnham
FLTmapping@outlook.com

...Awards article continued from previous page

found a full time candidate. Once Quinn launched his aggressively organized style on our office, some of us trembled with fear over what might get thrown away, and some scary pitches did happen, but nobody can argue with the refreshingly cleaned up new office, its décor, its tidiness, and the jobs he has designed for our new employees. We are in Quinn's debt for a job well done, especially considering that he had JUST retired, or so he thought. Quinn, you were the right man at the right time.



Quinn Wright accepts the Wally Wood Award

The following maps have just been published:

M2 - Wording changes were made on the back of the map for clarification. The trail did not change and the Rev Date remains at 06/16. Only the PDF map was changed.

M3 - There was a minor re-route. The Rev Date remains at 06/16. Both the PDF and GPX maps were changed.

M6 - A road name change on front, and added a "bridge out" symbol on Higgins Creek Rd. The Rev Date remains 08/15. Both the PDF and GPX maps were changed.

M19 - 4 small reroutes from Joe Dabes were incorporated. The Rev Date was changed to 07/16. Both the PDF and GPX maps were changed.

M20 - Removal of the Gatherings notation, and a 0.6 mile shortening of a road walk by using a different road walk. The Rev Date was changed to 07/16. Both the PDF and GPX maps were changed.

VML - Updated to reflect the M19 reroutes. The Rev Date was changed to 07/16. Only the PDF map was changed.

M27 - Updated to change the name of ice cream stand on front. The Rev Date remains at 09/14. Only the PDF map was changed.

M28 - Added a new bivouac site at 19.2 miles. The Rev Date remains at 10/14. Both the PDF and GPX maps were changed.

M29 - A road name change was made on the reverse of the map. The Rev Date remains at 08/13. Only the PDF map was changed.

B1 - Changed spelling from Hi Tor to High Tor to comply with new DEC literature. The Rev Date remains at 05/16. Only the PDF map was changed.

B3 - A correction of the trail was made on the front of map near Two Rod Rd at mile 9.8. The rev Date was changed to 07/16. Both the PDF and GPX maps were changed. 🍁

NEW Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 to 3:00

585/658-9320

debbieh@fingerlakestrail.org

joecaputo@fingerlakestrail.org

Ontario Pathways Yearly Fund Raiser

Tim Wilbur



Ontario Pathways Inc., located in Ontario County, N.Y., is a multi-use railtrail. Two former railroad corridors make up our 23.3 mile rail bed trail plus we have three loop trails for another 1.7 miles. This railroad line was part of the abandoned sections of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Elmira Division that also make up part of the FLT's Queen Catharine Trail.

While brainstorming for fund raising ideas, OP's founder, Betsy Russell, recalled seeing an article in an old *Yankee Magazine* about a New England farmer whose family carved dozens of pumpkins, placing them in a field for people driving by to see them all lit up at night. An adaptation of this concept was developed to have a section of trail lined with over 200 carved pumpkins. While we expected maybe 200 people to attend, 900 actually showed up! That was 18 years ago and from that starting point in 1998, it has become our annual fund raiser called The Great Pumpkin Walk™.

This is a kid friendly (no scary stuff) event where we line a quarter mile of our trail on both sides with carved pumpkins. At 6:30PM, just as it gets dark in October, volunteers light the candles inside what are now 650 to 800 pumpkins and the trail is transformed into a surreal looking pathway with every imaginable style of carved pumpkins. From the simple eyes, nose and toothless smile pumpkin to the elaborate etchings, creativity abounds. Skinned or peeled, cut or drilled, the illumination of a candle inside transforms each of these into individual master pieces giving our trail an orange glow in the night. The price of admission is \$4.00 per person and with your ticket you get cider and donut holes at one of the two refreshment tents along the trail.

It is a community event with community involvement and support.

Location, volunteers, and OP members are the three key factors in making this event happen. A wide level rail bed allows us to line both sides with pumpkins still having room for people, some pushing strollers, to walk in on one side and out on the other. We have the use of a large parking lot just across the street from our trailhead and with their flood lights, the Sheriff's department assists our guests across the road to the trailhead on County Rd. 10, across from the Ontario County Fairgrounds. CR 10 goes north from highways 5 and 20 east of Canandaigua.

The pumpkins come from an array of donations starting with trail members who specifically grow pumpkins for this event. Several area farmers who grow pumpkins for a crop allow us to take the "seconds" after they have harvested their quota. Area grocery stores and fruit stands also donate pumpkins and finally individual donations add to our totals.



Nancey Wilbur

Author Tim Wilbur, working on pumpkins in the back of his truck.



The pumpkin carvers come from the ranks of middle and high school students, 4H clubs, BOCES, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, art class, area organizations, merchants, OP members and individual efforts. Our Pumpkin Coordinator pulls it all together making sure the trail trimmers have readied the trail. She dispatches members with trucks to retrieve and deliver pumpkins, sees that the parking lot, admissions, and the refreshment stands are all staffed and set up. The morning of the Walk members are busy placing pumpkins every five feet with two candles inside.

At the end of the event, members make sure all candles are extinguished. For the last five years the Lions Club's Leos (high school students) meet the following morning to clear the trail of pumpkins. The Leos strip out the candles then have at it smashing pumpkins off the trail. (The pumpkins decompose over the winter.)

This year, the Great Pumpkin Walk™ date is Saturday October 15th. Mother Nature is a concern as a wet summer or a freak hail storm can damage a pumpkin crop reducing our numbers. She also is a factor on the night of the event when we get only a few hundred dedicated people in inclement weather, or near 2,000 under clear skies and favorable weather! Last year we had rain the day before the Walk and snow on the ground the day after, but the night of the event was ideal weather with a well-attended event. 🍁

Question: don't random pumpkins grow in the woods adjacent to the trail the following year? Any place I discard pumpkins brings new ones. Editor



Nancey Wilbur at the entrance to the Pumpkin Walk.

All photos by Tim Wilbur except the one of him.

A Naturalist's View

Story and Photos by D. Randy Weidner

While many hikers of The Finger Lakes Trail eagerly resume or increase their trail use in autumn, refreshed by cooler temperatures, bright days, and the colorful deciduous trees, it is important to realize that you will not be the only people in the woods and fields then. Hunting enthusiasts steadfastly anticipate fall as “their” time of year. While there are many game animals in New York State, by far the most popular is the White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Hikers can have fun with deer, too. Whitetails are extremely numerous in the area covered by the Finger Lakes Trail. Hunters will always complain there are not enough, but in fact, from the standpoint of a healthy forest habitat, over most of this range, there are far too many. Evidence for this claim is the severely depleted wildflower and herb populations, and the near total absence of regenerating oak and maple trees. Lacking natural predators effective enough to control them, White-tailed Deer populations can be managed only by hunting, and while this has forever been inadequate, it is the only politically acceptable measure.

If you hike our Trail often enough, you will certainly encounter a White-tailed Deer. The average deer is about 140 pounds, but bucks will often top 180 in late fall, losing weight after the rut (breeding season). From the tip of the nose to the base of the tail, adult deer are nearly 6 feet long. In summer, Whitetails bear a reddish-brown coat of thin, straight, wiry hairs that lie flat, giving the animal a sleek appearance. By fall and through winter, the deer is more gray-brown, with longer, thicker, hollow, and slightly crinkled hairs, ideal insulation from the cold. Fawns, born in May and June, are reddish-brown and have white spots that slowly fade over time. This dappled pattern is remarkably effective camouflage for lying curled up on a sunlit forest floor. As additional protection, fawns are scentless for a few weeks. I saw my setter dog run within 3 feet of a lying fawn and never know it was there. Should you ever encounter a lying fawn, take a photo if you wish, but then move on, assured that its mother is not far away and aware of all that is happening.

White-tailed Deer are a mix of curiosity and caution. Their vision seems poor for details, but is very sensitive to any movement. At times you may be hiking merrily along, crest a rise, and suddenly notice a deer standing there watching you. Stop and stand silently; the deer will be staring at you. If you move very slowly, often you will be able to lift your camera or binoculars for a photo or closer study of the animal. If you want to have

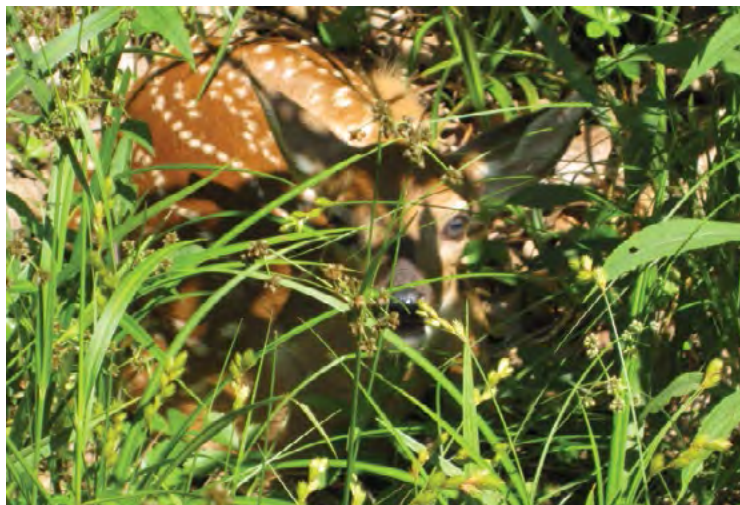
some fun, keep one arm down to your side with your hand below your waist. Every few seconds, wave that hand, just the hand and not your whole arm, out to the side for two or three quick beats.



This action mimics the habitual tail flicking of a Whitetail. It is not unusual that the deer watching you will extend its neck, or even take a few steps closer to check you out. All this depends on you being quiet and downwind, because the Whitetail's keenest senses are hearing and smell. You will know the jig is up if the deer lifts a front leg and stomps the ground, which means “I’m nervous.” That behavior may be followed by a loud, blowing snort, sounding like “whiew,” followed by a quick turn on its heels and bounding away. White-tailed Deer can sprint 40 miles per hour for a short burst, jump 9 feet high, and they are also excellent swimmers.

The rut, or breeding season is in the fall. Bucks are particularly wary at this time. They actively mark out territory, rubbing antlers on saplings until the bark is completely eroded and bare wood shines through. Bucks also paw the ground, usually on a trail, under a low hanging branch, an activity known as scraping.

These two territorial marks are frequently encountered while hiking. At such places, if the buck was recently there, you may also detect a distinctly musky odor from oils left by his scent glands located on the inside of his hind leg hocks, which he rubs on trees. Bucks at this time of year are usually solitary; does and fawns may be in small family groups of two to five or more. If they have been pressured at all, at best you may see their signal-flag tails as they run away.



Hunting Season Dates

Small game hunting for squirrels is allowed across all of upstate New York between September 1 and February 28. Upland bird hunting across the southern part of the state for Ruffed Grouse runs from October 1 to Feb 28, and for American Woodcock from October 1 to mid-November. Cottontail Rabbit hunting coincides with the Ruffed Grouse season. Hunters of these small game species often work with dogs, shoot light shotgun loads, and are not much of a potential hazard to hikers. Wild Turkey hunting in fall is from October 17-30, and turkey hunters usually do shoot heavier shotgun loads, often hiding in camouflaged conditions, potentially more hazardous for hikers. Hunting for the big game species, White-tailed Deer and Black Bear, begins October 1 with bow and crossbow, but the main firearms season (shotguns or rifles) is November 19 to December 11, in the Southern Zone, through which the Finger Lakes Trail runs. There is an additional three day youth firearms season on the Columbus Day weekend, October 8-10, and a muzzle-loading firearms season from December 12-20.

Your safety as a hiker is more of a concern during big game seasons, but during any of these hunting seasons it is wise to be careful. I have seen hikers on the first day of the gun season for deer foolishly dressed in brown and gray, the color of a deer. Dressed like that, moving through the woods at a distance, will attract a hunter's attention. Wear bright colors, preferably bright orange, so hunters can see you, or stay out of the woods! During the 2015 hunting season New York did not suffer a single human fatality, despite many regions having recently been opened to rifle hunting. In fact, greater safety may be because of hunting with a rifle, a weapon that is more accurate at longer range, but requires careful sighting of the target. The outdoors, and the areas through which run the Finger Lakes Trail, will be put to multiple uses this fall. Go out and enjoy yourself; just be wise and be safe. 🍁



To avoid having to buy a blaze orange coat, look for a single layer orange shirt in a huge size, say, 3XL, which you can then wear over other clothes and still be vividly visible. A blaze orange hat is definitely worth buying.



A Hot Day with Chain Saws

They picked the hotter and more humid of the two days that July weekend to tackle a leaning tangled mess of trees deep in the longest section of the Letchworth Trail between road access points. Eric Szucs, sponsor, and sawyers Mary and Carl Guldenschuh and Marty Howden walked in miles to get to this mess but managed to succeed. A brave pair of bikers has been working the Letchworth Trail this summer with a manual saw and an axe, but they deferred this challenging mess to our trained sawyers.



Mary Guldenschuh

A grateful thank you from the Executive Director to:

1. Mike Granger for stepping up to the very large job of VP of Crews and Construction. Please offer to help on his Alley Cat crews. The projects are always fun and rewarding. Matt Branneman will be missed greatly, but Mike is an able replacement with whom any of you will enjoy working.
2. Matt Branneman for leading crews and construction for quite a few years now. His generosity in taking off whole weeks from work for our projects was unmatched, plus his experience with construction enabled him to refine our building processes significantly, taking a full day off typical log shelters, for instance.
3. Paul Warrender for stepping up to the demanding job of VP of Trail Maintenance. Please offer to help maintain the trail. We frequently see notes of appreciation from hikers when they write in the trail registers. Steve Catherman will be missed, but Paul is a tireless worker with great experience who has immense respect for the work that maintainers do to keep the FLT a premium hiking trail.
4. Steve Catherman for eight years as our previous VP of Trail Maintenance. Much of his work was behind the scenes, unknown to most members, but he kept straight our records with public agencies (permits to work in state forests, for instance), and disseminated our trail work hours annually to each land agency. He conducted most of our trail management meetings, too, and his conscientious and thorough work will be missed.
5. John Kerr for his assistance in helping to make our data base a useful and effective tool for the FLTC.
6. Mike Goodwin for his repair, modification and refinishing of the office deck.
7. Roger Hopkins for his tireless efforts to keep the website functioning and informative.

We appreciate all of you! Quinn Wright

Trail Topics: New Trail Sponsors and Trail Maintenance

Paul Warrender, Vice President of Trail Maintenance

New Trail Sponsors

Donnie and Shareen Graham of Fairport are new sponsors on the northern half of the Letchworth Trail section between Access Points E and F. E to F is the longest segment between access points on the Letchworth Trail, and Eric Szucs has been struggling to keep up with all of it; it's nearly six miles long, and includes two lovely blue-blazed spur trails to gorge overlooks deep in the middle. Eric will keep the southern half of that segment. Best of all, Donnie is a landscaper, so already has a good idea what to do!

Cobb property updates: There have been pleas in this column several times for someone to mow the trail from road to railroad through an old field, and at last **Ken Shaw** has volunteered to tend that chore, since he also takes care of the trail westward from Cobb's toward Ellicottville. Also, we now have a new sponsor for both Cobb's and the road walk eastward, **Chris File**, who lives near Toledo, Ohio! Yes, that would be a raggedy commute, but he and his wife visit their intended future retirement home frequently, near Ellicottville. Irene Szabo, caretaker at Cobb's since the mid-90s, will ease Chris into the special needs of this property on Map M4 that the FLT owns.

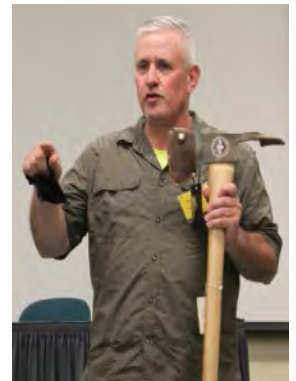
Ironically, Ellicottville produced yet another new trail worker from Ohio: **Scott Gohn** has moved from Ohio to Ellicottville. Scott was in Katy's for breakfast one morning and overheard Dave Potzler and Frank Occhiuto from Foothills, talking about

how bad a section was in Bucktooth State Forest. Scott volunteered to maintain that section, Map M2, Access Points 4 to 5, so has now become a Foothills Trail Club steward.

James and Donna Badolato of Sidney have adopted a piece of M27, toward the eastern end of the trail, between Dunbar and Shear Roads. Thank you!

Pete Wybron has adopted a section of Map M9, between Access Points 6 and 7, northwest of Hornell. It's mostly state forest with one private stretch at the east end. Pete first signed up with us years ago because he wanted to do trail work, but at times work and other volunteer duties, like when he was our treasurer, interfered, so it's good to see him back at his favorite thing again. He takes over for Carl Luger who moved farther away from that map.

The north end of the Bristol Hills Trail, map B1, has been adopted by **Patty Mangarelli**, who replaces Robert Wild, still one of our most enthusiastic trail landowners in that area, but he plans to move away part of the year.



Tom Reimers

Annual Regional Trailcare Meetings

We hope that many of our trail maintainers will come to their regional meetings this fall, held every other year for each region. There is so much to discuss and show you to help your work in the field, tools to display, signage to share, that every steward for a club or individual trail sponsor should attend. On October 22nd, we will meet in the Bainbridge Scout House, for all those far eastern trail workers, and the central region will be covered by another similar meeting in Virgil's Town Hall on November 12th. We also would welcome anyone from another region to attend, especially if you are new to trail care or missed your area's meeting last year.

Orphan trails in need of adoption!

As you can read elsewhere in this issue, Gene Cornelius, longtime faithful trail steward, died this spring at 75. He tended the FLT from its Pennsylvania terminus on State Rte. 346 north to the state border, then through a long section of Allegany State Park, up to Access 2 on Wolf Run Road, 4.2 miles of all forest. However, one must walk over a mile in on Wolf Run Rd. beyond the gate to get to the section's northern terminus. Looking for a new caretaker for your very own piece of the state park: contact Regional Coordinator Marty Howden at howser51@yahoo.com or 585/567-8589.

Mike Granger moved in the last year and has also accepted the big job of VP of Crews and Construction, so would like to give up his old piece of Map M6, just west of the Genesee River south of Letchworth. This orphan goes from Stickley Rd. near Higgins east to NY 19, and is 2.2 miles of off-road trail on private land, and 1.9 miles of roadwalk, so would make an easy introduction for a new trail worker. Again, to volunteer, contact Marty Howden, info above.

A note from your newly appointed VP of Trail Maintenance

I'm certain that some folks have heard of my recent appointment by the FLTC Board to the position of Vice President of Trail Maintenance. I am honored to accept this responsibility and will do all that I can to serve the Finger Lakes Trail community. Following in the footsteps of Steve Catherman will be no easy task, and I can only hope to accomplish what he has over the past many years.

For the purposes of introduction, I'd like to give you some of my background. I moved to the Finger Lakes area, and Ithaca specifically, in 2009 from Massachusetts; the move was career related. As an avid hiker and backpacker for years over trails in every New England state, I was excited to find new hiking opportunities in the area. Before I had even moved into my first home in Ithaca, I had already discovered the Finger Lakes Trail and was happily exploring it. Before long, I joined the Cayuga Trails Club, and the FLTC shortly afterward. I enjoy community service and quickly found myself adopting a trail section in the Finger Lakes National Forest and becoming active on the CTC board.

As for my own work, I worked for Sodexo USA for nearly 18 years at a number of colleges and universities, completing my service as Retail Foodservice Operations Manager at Ithaca College. In May of 2015, I took on a new role, that of Retail Operations Director for Ithaca Bakery.

Since January of 2011, I have been Trails Chairman of the Cayuga Trails Club, heading up the maintenance and construction needs of the 54 year old Cayuga Trail in Ithaca plus 90 miles of the Finger Lakes Trail between Watkins Glen and Caroline. In 2014 I took on the additional responsibility of FLTC Regional Trail Coordinator for the Watkins Glen-East region, extending the work out to Virgil. In light of my new responsibilities, I will be vacating my current positions with the CTC in January 2017; I plan on remaining as RTC Watkins-East for the time being.

In light of my appointment to the Trail Management Team, I am learning a lot of new tasks, names, key relationships, and resources. And, though Steve briefed me well on the responsibilities (he continues to be a very supportive mentor as well), I am just beginning to get my head wrapped around what the Finger Lakes Trail needs from me.

Over the coming months I will be reaching out to all involved in maintaining this wonderful resource for information about new adopters and sponsors, trail maintenance issues, and of course trail census reporting (everyone's favorite!). 🍁

Contact: Paul Warrender
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FINGER LAKES TRAIL

New York's Premier Footpath

Trail Topics: What Do These Private Land Notices and Signs Mean?

Lynda Rummel, Vice President of Trail Quality

You know, I'm sure, to get the most recent map and check the trail conditions reports for that map on the FLTC website before you go out hiking on the FLT System. To reiterate the reasons: Our maps, both our interactive map on the website and our 8.5x11 downloadable (you print it off) or office supplied (on Rite-in-the-Rain waterproof paper) maps and the trail conditions reports section of the website are the only places where you can get key information that will make your hike both enjoyable and successful, because these are the only places where you can find information regarding reroutes, temporary closures, and permanent seasonal closures, critical bits of data that greatly affect your hiking experience. (Yes, an up-to-date FLTC track of the trail plus a check of the trail reports will work pretty well, too, but don't forget that batteries do fail, so always take a hard-copy map as back-up.)

Knowing about relocations off of one property to another, temporary closures due to logging, wash-outs, microbursts or other damage to the tread, and calendar closures also affect *the permanency of the trail*, because not knowing until the problem is encountered means that hikers have to turn around...or far worse, may be tempted to continue on the trail or bushwhack around the closed section. And as we all know too well, continuing on a closed section or bushwhacking around it can really (and rightfully) irritate landowners.

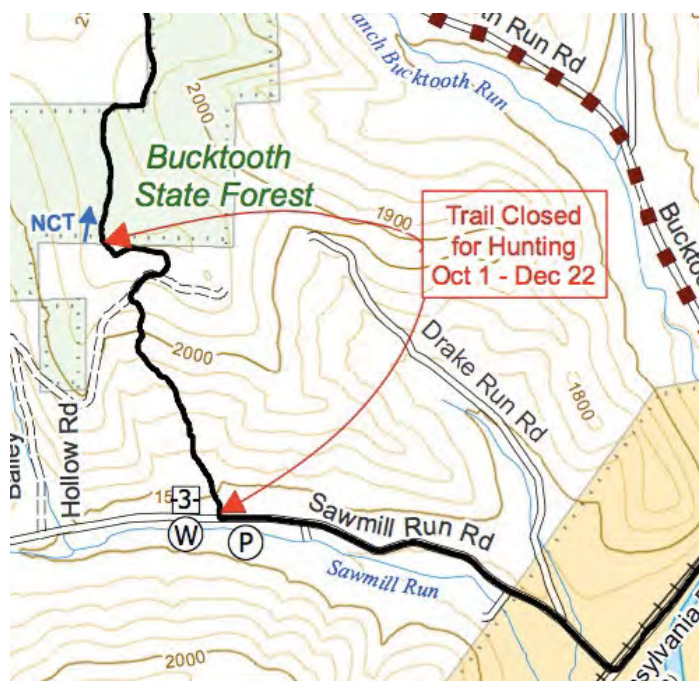
I'm sure you've seen the red-inked "notices" on our maps that say something like, "Trail closed for hunting Nov 15 – Dec 22." Text below the interactive map and before the trail conditions reports explains this somewhat, but if you're new to the trail system, is it clear to you what this means? Does it mean (a) the trail segment is closed *to* hunting, that is, no hunting is allowed from or on the trail, but hiking is still allowed, or does it mean (b) the trail segment is closed *because of* hunting, that is, no hiking is allowed on the section because it's hunting season time? And either way, does the notice (a) apply to everyone, including the landowner, or (b) just to us members of the public who may wish to hike the section or hunt from the trail during the specific time period? See if you got it right: The answer is (b) in both cases – No public hiking on the trail segment during the closed period, and yes, the closure applies only to us members of the public; that is, the landowner and his/her invitees may hike and hunt from the trail during the hunting closure period. As it says on the trail conditions notices on the interactive map, *Dear Hiker, please "respect landowner wishes; do not hike on sections that are closed during hunting seasons."*

Now if the trail crosses property posted with "No Trespassing" signs, is hiking *on the trail* (a) still permissible, or is hiking (b) prohibited, along with hunting, fishing, and trapping, and FLTC trail management just hasn't caught up with the situation? Further, if the property is posted No Trespassing, does it mean that (a) hiking and camping *off the trail* are prohibited or does it mean that (b) land adjacent to the trail can be hiked and camp fires can

be built on it? I bet you aren't tricked by these questions: The answer to both is (a) – a posted No Trespassing sign means you can still hike the trail (assuming it's not closed because of hunting season) but you don't have permission to stray from it or build a cooking fire or camp on land adjacent to it. (The exception, of course, is where a spot has been designated for camping, as noted on the back of the FLT map or by a sign at the location.) The special official FLTC POSTED sign makes it clear that only hiking is allowed. And please remember that you should not stray from the trail or camp or build camp fires along it even if it isn't posted!

If trail on private property is *not closed* during hunting season, does that mean that it can be hiked safely? No, it just means that it's open for hiking. The landowner and his/her invitees may be hunting the land *or* hunters may be hunting nearby properties. Remember that parcel shapes and sizes may be quite irregular and the trail may bring you close to a neighboring active hunting area, so if you choose to hike the segment, wear *a lot* of blaze orange. Your dog should be leashed and adorned with blaze orange, too, and since we're not in grizzly country, keep noise to a minimum. Of course you should take the same precautions when hiking the trail on state lands during hunting seasons anyway.

So then, why not close the trail system totally during hunting season? Surprisingly, there are good reasons not to. Here's one: Keeping a trail segment open to hiking but closed to public



A closure because of hunting season shown on map M2/CT2, between Seneca Nation land and Bucktooth State Forest.

hunting actually benefits the landowner, because it means that the landowner knows where the hikers are (i.e., on the trail) and knows where his/her hunting pals are (or at least *should* know), so anybody else anywhere else is a trespasser, probably an uninvited hunter. In other words, a trail that is open year-round helps the landowner identify trespassers. And nothing is more certain to discourage trespassing on a property for hunting than hearing that a couple of trespassing hunters were ticketed, fined, and lost their hunting licenses! 🍁



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

Gifts in Honor of
Lynda Rummel
Joyce & Bob Herman

Trail Topics: Alley Cats

Mike Granger, Vice President of Crews and Construction

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your VP of Crews and Construction; it is both an honor and a privilege! You may contact me at mikegra@gmail.com

Alley Cat #1 started on May 7th, and we finished up on the next day. During this two-day project we managed to build and place over 80 feet of puncheon, and construct a 24-foot kingpost bridge over a small stream in Ellicottville, off Route 240, near access point 12. Dave Potzler headed up the job as Project Manager, and I filled the role of Construction Manager (although Dave really did both). We had over 20 enthusiastic volunteers, mostly from the Foothills Trail Club, and it was great to meet them; what a great bunch of people! Our Regional Trail Coordinator, Marty Howden, also joined us. This construction was followed by building new trail in Elkdale State Forest.

AC#2 was also a bridge, or bridges, rather, in Pharsalia State Forest, on map M23, just off SR23 in Pharsalia, Chenango County. Big thanks go out to Chris Sprague of the Bullthistles for helping to get a special permit to build a crib on the stream bed. The permit was required because this is a protected stream. We started the construction on July 15, starting with breakfast on site at 7am. Project manager was Tom Bryden of the Bullthistle Hiking Club, and I was the Construction Manager. A special thanks to Mike and Peg Fuller for feeding the entire crew after the first day of work, also for housing Bob Emerson and me. Bob and I slept in the Pharsalia SF lean-to the night before the project, and were nearly eaten alive by the mosquitos. And thanks to the NYS DEC for providing rocks to fill the cribbing (all carried down the hill, by hand, by the Bullthistle volunteers).

With 15 volunteers we were able to build a 40-foot span across the main channel, consisting of a 24-foot kingpost bridge and a 16-foot ramp, and across another channel a 16-foot puncheon. There were a lot of materials to carry on this project, and the crew was up to the challenge, one of the hardest working groups that I have had the pleasure to work with.

AC#3 was completed on Saturday July 30th, two days before the *FLT News* submission deadline and I am working hard to get this write up completed before editor Irene yells at me, again.

This Alley Cat was a very special project for two reasons, the first being that all materials were a donation from one of our long time FLT members who prefers to remain anonymous, and second because this was a post and beam style lean-to using wooden pegs instead of nails or screws to fasten said post and beams together. Rob Hughes did all of the millwork himself in his garage in Wayland. Many thanks to Anonymous and Rob!

Jacqui Wensich was the Project Manager and served all of the food for this Alley Cat, while Mike Ogden was the Construction Manager. We had a small crew of six, which was really all that we needed, as a great deal of the work was already completed by Rob in advance; the framework was just a matter of assembly. We managed to finish it in two days. This was a very skilled crew, and they did a flawless job. The lean-to was erected on the property of the future Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium in Branchport, on Map B2. See stories about....

AC#4 is scheduled to start on August 15th, another lean-to, to be built in Hoxie Gorge State Forest. Mike Tenkate is the Project Manager.

AC#5 will be another bridge sponsored by the Foothills Trail Club. Dave Potzler is the Project Manager. We have not set a date for this project, as of deadline, but I am expecting that we will do it in September or October. It will be built on the Conservation Trail in Darien. 🍁

Contact: **Mike Granger**
mikegra@gmail.com

FLM & A Shelter - Alley Cat 3 - 2016

Story and Pictures by Jacqui Wensich, Project Manager

As is my custom on Saturday mornings while walking my dog, I listened to Michael Warren Thomas, longtime friend of the FLTC on 1040AM. William Gaske, representing the new Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium, was being interviewed about the museum. Bill mentioned that there would be hiking trails and interactive displays. I thought that this would be a great opportunity for marketing the FLT to a new and probably younger population for years to come.

After talking to FLT Executive Director, Quinn Wright, and Matt Branneman, previous VP of Crews and Construction, for input, I contacted Natalie Payne, Executive Director of the FLM&A, who liked the idea. Natalie and I met in March 2016. Bill Gaske, President of Board, and John Adamaski, founder and previous Board President, also attended. (Bill is also a new trail maintainer on the nearby Bristol Hills Trail.)



Don Sutherland on top of the base for the shelter that he built of pressure-treated wood.

At the Annual Trail Council Meeting in April, Matt agreed to have us build the second of Rob Hughes' beautiful post and beam shelters. (See 2015 Fall Issue of the *FLT News*.) Bill Gaske gave a brief description of the FLT & A to the group. This project is funded by an FLT member.

New VP of C&C, Mike Granger, Mike Ogden and I met with Natalie and Bill at the site to choose a location and check out the facilities. The museum is in the building stage on the site of an old elementary school right in the hamlet of Branchport in southern Yates County, at the northwest end of Keuka Lake.

The facilities were very favorable including a large construction trailer, water, electricity and easy access to the shelter site from the road to bring in all the materials. Natalie had a portable toilet placed right near the construction site. Another bonus: end-to-ender #242 Mahlon Hurst has provided much of the construction



The whole crew having lunch at their new Isaac Hurst picnic table. From near head end, circling across back left to right, then right to left on near side: Mike Granger, Bob Emerson, Kenny Fellers, Rob Hughes, Mike Ogden, and Don Sutherland.

lumber used on the FLT and is located only 7 miles away. He milled our lumber for this project. I recently purchased a 24ft recreational vehicle that served as our kitchen.

Keuka Lake is a short stream downstream from the property. There is one newly constructed handicapped-accessible dock with one more planned. 16 acres of pristine wetlands were donated to the museum property by neighbors, FLM&A supporters, and FLTC members, Lynda Rummel and Rolf Zerges. (For more information check out the Facebook page or the website: fingerlakesmuseum.org)



Eleanor and end-to-ender Mahlon Hurst, our Mennonite friends with a lumber mill.



Mike Ogden suffering the indignities of a sawdust shower from workers on the roof.

Mike Granger finalized the beam and post shelter with Rob Hughes. Lynda Rummel volunteered her nearby home for showers and a swim for the crew. Mike Ogden agreed to be the Construction Manager. A few weeks later, Mike and I had lunch at the Hursts' home, provided by wife Eleanor, to discuss

lumber. Another bonus, Mahlon and Eleanor are avid birders and regularly lead informative hikes at the museum site focusing on local birds. You can subscribe to their quarterly magazine "Feathers and Friends" (and buy lumber) by calling 315-536-3647.

For a first time Project Manager, many items came up that were "news" to me. Potential flooding, staining, ordering various materials, roof color, base, type of fire pit, table, direction of the opening, generators ... it is much simpler just being the cook. Fortunately, we had an expert crew. We took advantage of the Thursday evening farmer's market on site for fresh sweet corn, including buying a beautiful picnic table for the shelter from Isaac Hurst, Mahlon's younger brother.

Rob did much of the preparation for the beams and frame before the project began. After the base was measured, dug and put into place, Rob had the crew put the puzzle pieces together. The roof base was also finished the first day. Kenny Fellers slept in the half-finished shelter the first night, fighting bugs and noisy herons. On day two, Mike Ogden found a tarp to cover the roof framing during the much needed rain. Other crew members worked on the walls while Rob cut boards under the roof. Kenny Fellers did much of the finishing work around the top of the walls. It took almost as much time to finish/trim the shelter walls and roof as it did to put on the entire roof. Don Sutherland will build a wooden register for inside the shelter. 4:40PM finished!

After the wood has dried thoroughly, the walls will be stained. A Shelter Dedication schedule will be sent out on Facebook and the yahoo group. There will be a plaque and FLT informational materials. The FLM & A and the FLT hope to have regularly scheduled mutually beneficial activities. FLM & A could be the site of a future Spring Meeting or Fall Campout? The property has



Jacqui showing off the framed shelter. Picture by Mike Granger

a docking site and close access to the lake and wetlands. Paddling activities are ongoing. Once the Museum is fully open, all visitors will have an introduction to the Finger Lakes Trail.

Many thanks to the stalwart Alley Cat Crew whom I stuffed with good food. Thanks to the helpful FLM & A Capital Projects Director, Jim Higgins, who provided me with electricity and water for my RV and the use of his office space for extra sleeping room for the crew.

I look forward to working with Natalie Payne and her volunteers in the future. 🍁



Rob Hughes sawing inside under a tarp continues on the rainy day.

A Walk on the Wordy Side

Marla Perkins

Many of us have favorite trails or sections of trails. One of my favorites is the loop trail on Connecticut Hill, and I've hiked it many times. I'm also, very gradually, working on rehiking the entire Finger Lakes Trail and rereading the complete works of Shakespeare in this 400th year since his death. I hike new trails and familiar trails, and as I was hiking one of my favorite trails again and reading some of my favorite literature again, I was considering the role of repetition in language and cognition.

When people see something more than once, they see everything they saw previously quickly and then can notice and focus on different details or on small changes. This works for many repetitions. The noticing is partially a result of two aspects of attention in the human mind. Repeated input makes people less sensitive to what is repeated, yet it reinforces the input given via repetition, and non-repeated input captures attention.

Hiking a trail repeatedly accesses both aspects of human attention. Major portions of trails don't change much from day to day. The locations of the trees don't change, and trail reroutings, although they happen, are not all that common. Major boulders don't tend to move quickly, nor do the hills or mountains on which the boulders



lie. Creeks are interesting because the water is always moving, but the creeks themselves are relatively permanent. These landscape features allow those of us who hike trails repeatedly to be able to recognize where we are and what sort of actions we need to take, such as fording a stream or scrambling over or around a boulder, perhaps to the extent that we can hike the trails without thinking much about the physical activities required to hike them. Perhaps we don't even notice many of the major features of the trails.

On the other hand, hiking trails repeatedly allows for repeated viewings. The trees, boulders, and creeks can be seen very quickly, which allows for daily and seasonal changes to be more in the forefront of attention. Light changes with different times of day, with different weather conditions, and with the seasons, which allows for different aspects of the same trail to be noticed. Seasons change what is available. Different wildflowers, plants, birds, and phases of growth, from leaf buds to autumn colors to winter dormancy, are available at different times of the year. When one hikes a trail again and again, things that don't change are backgrounded, and the things that do change can be more obvious. Even things that apparently don't change, like the trees and the creeks and the boulders, if observed again and again over time, can be seen to change, with growth or erosion, for example. Minor changes can also be observed against a background of basic consistency: the same plant might make more flowers in some years than in others. One summer that was particularly rainy, some types of fungi were active that I have never seen before or since.

Each is a view of the Upper Falls and the railroad bridge in Letchworth State Park, each taken in a different season, demonstrating Marla's point about seeing the same spot at different times. All photos by Jacqui Wensich.

www.FingerLakesTrail.org



Language allows for the same attentional phenomena with repetition. I am often asked why languages have politeness routines, expressions such as “hi-how-are-you” and “great, thanks” that look like a greeting and a question and a response, respectively, but that do not seem to be meaningful for their linguistic expressions alone. People use these expressions as they’re walking in opposite directions and do not wait either for the complete question or for the answer. An honest answer to the question is not socially acceptable—nobody really wants to hear how anyone else is doing, and if one is truly seeking information, it takes some non-repetitive questioning to figure out how people really are doing. The structure of the expressions, and their repetitive use, allows people not to focus on the content of the messages, or lack thereof, but to be comfortable that social routines are in place. People no longer have to pay attention to where they’re putting their feet on familiar trails because they’ve done it many times. People no longer have to pay attention to where they’re putting their social attention, because the route is well traveled. Violations of the social routines can make people feel socially and emotionally lost or disoriented in ways remarkably similar to the feeling of being lost when one departs from a known trail.

Poetry stylistically makes some of the most obvious uses of repetition and uniqueness. For example, sonnets have consistent forms, Italian or English, traditionally, as do other poetic forms, yet the content can vary enormously. The consistent forms



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allow people to pay attention to the content of the poetry while reinforcing knowledge of the form so that violations of any given form are immediately noticeable and part of the experience of the poem. There are many different forms, and non-forms of poetry. In the plays of Shakespeare, prose, blank verse, rhymed couplets, and embedded poetry interact. Long passages of blank verse can become almost hypnotizing; the interruption of blank verse by a rhymed couplet draws attention to transitions in the narrative while often providing a summary of the action. Characters who speak in prose and characters who speak in poetry are clearly distinguishable from one another because of their differences, and because of the repetition of style, they are also recognizable as individuals.

Repetition can be tedious; there isn’t a saying that “familiarity breeds contempt” for nothing. However, if one allows for repetition to provide a basis for closer observation, repetition in language and hiking can make for a more enriched experience of interaction with people and with nature. 🍁

Alley Cat 1

Marty Howden, Project Manager

We had a great turn out, the majority of whom were Foothills members, for the first Alley Cat of 2016 in early May. This project was on Mary Zuk Domanski's section on Map M3 between Access Points 11 and 12, near Ellicottville. Mike Granger (VP of Crews and Construction) and Dave Potzler (Project Manager) led this project that included the building of a king post truss bridge, several feet of puncheon to relieve hikers of severe goop, steps, and 1.7 miles of new trail through Elkdale State Forest on Map M2 north of Salamanca.

On days one and two everything ran like a well oiled machine with one group building and repairing steps to the west of the bridge, a bridge crew, and a crew building the puncheon, steps, and prep work for the puncheon to the east. Everything was built and we picked up our tools at the end of the day on Sunday. The next few days the Alley Cat crew moved over to Elkdale State Forest to build a new 1.7 mile section of trail to connect Fourth Street to the Pat Magee rail trail, eliminating miles of boring road walk. Thanks to everyone who participated and to Dave and Mike's leadership. 🍁



Ed Olesky

The first Alley Cat project completed this bridge and boardwalked the approach to the stream, to relieve hikers of dank goop underfoot.

Chainsaw Training - July 30 - July 31, 2016

Marty Howden, Sawyer Training Coordinator

Our first chainsaw training of 2016 was held on the weekend of July 30 & 31 in Birdseye Hollow State Forest. We had six participants for the class. The Game of Logging's Bill Lindloff was our instructor again this year. It was a nice cross section of younger and mature sawyers. The class learned how to develop a felling plan, assess the hazards, learn the safety features of our saws, perform routine maintenance on our saws, and to safely operate a chainsaw on the trail upon completion of the course. Bill showed us several different cuts to use and the class was able to perform those cuts by the second day. This class is required before operating a chainsaw on the FLT and its branch trails.

Because this class had to be rescheduled from spring, some of our own members were not able to attend, so we opened the opportunity to some of our partners. Thus we had participants from the DEC, State Parks, and the CNY Chapter of the North Country Trail Association in addition to a few FLT members.

We have a second class coming up on the weekend of September 17 & 18. This class is full, but we will be scheduling next year's classes this fall and if you are interested



Marty Howden

Picture of July class: Left to right, bottom: Kaytlynn Walters, DEC, Chelsea Sheridan, DEC, Bill Lindloff. Top: Dan Schuld, Parks, Mark Wadopian, CNY, Frank Occhiuto, Stuart Schweitzer, John Mahoney. Chelsea Sheridan placed second in the scoring and got a Game of Logging t-shirt from Bill. Marty Howden, photographer, was also a member of the class and came in first in scoring. Our certified sawyers must re-take the course every three years.

please let me know at howser51@yahoo.com. The new saws are lighter and some are easier to start so just because you might not be large in stature give some consideration to becoming a certified sawyer for the FLT. 🍁

Alley Cat 2

Tom Bryden, Project Manager

Photos by Peg Fuller

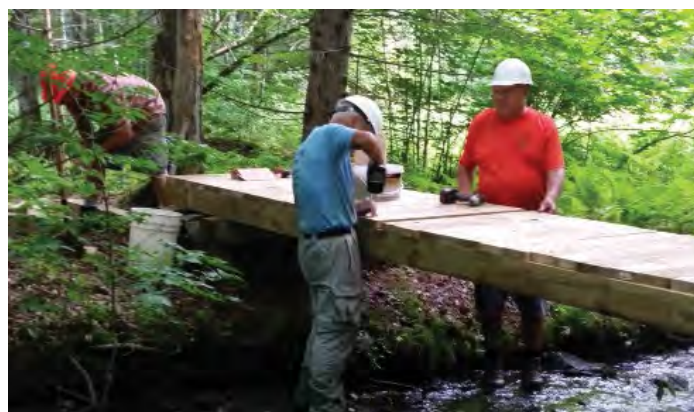
Alley Cat 2 for 2016 was a tremendous success as a new 24 foot span bridge was completed, along with 16 feet of puncheon, a 12 foot walkway and several bridge supports. This construction took place on Map M23 in Chenango County, north of State Highway 23, at mileage point 10.6 (2016 revision covering new off-road trail built last year). The crossing of a Canasawacta Creek tributary is much more scenic, easier, and more enjoyable with this new structure.

Mike Granger, new FLT VP for Crews and Construction, led the project, capably assisted by Bob Emerson and Don Sutherland. All other labor was provided by Bullthistle Hiking Club members. Thanks to the efforts of Warren Johnsen, Rich Breslin, Pete Stapleton, Colleen Townsend, Jim White, Mike Fuller, Peg Fuller, Larry Chesebro, Stan Benedict, and Michele Bryden, everything went smoothly. Special thanks to BHC member and DEC Forester Chris Sprague, who played a major role in location of the bridge, planning and design, and securing DEC permits. Chris and assistant Nick Wilcox also provided a good deal of “hard labor” in helping with the construction, and transporting of materials from Rte 23 down a steep hill to the work site. The physical exertion put forth by BHC members in transporting tools, heavy pressure-treated lumber and rocks for bridge supports was something to behold. The 85 to 90 degree humid weather made the work even more of a challenge. Predicted rain was avoided, meals at the work site went well and a Friday night cook-out at the home of Mike and Peg Fuller was greatly enjoyed.

As Project Manager, I take little credit for what was accomplished, but feel great pride in what this crew completed in 1 1/2 days. While most of the crew worked Friday and Saturday, Pete Stapleton and Colleen Townsend, veteran Alley Cat workers, were indispensable in the success of this project. Their hours and days of prep work, post construction touch-ups and innumerable errands completed were a major reason for a fine finished project we’re all proud of. The Ed Sidote Hike was made much more enjoyable, I’m sure, on our “new trail” and “new bridge.” 🍁

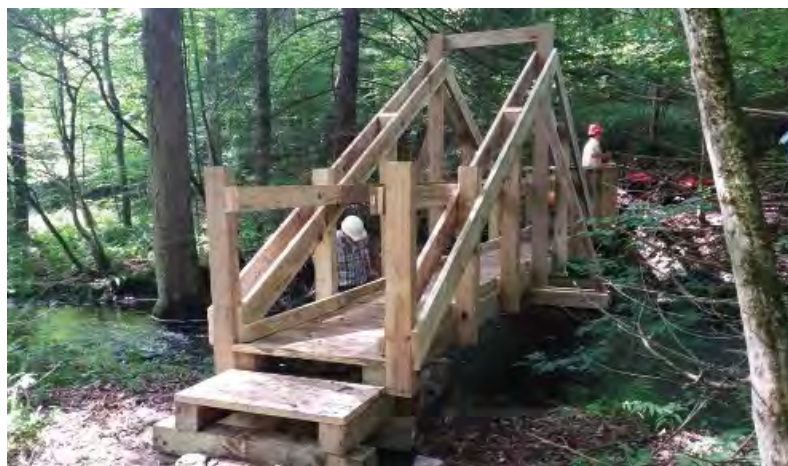


Larry Chesebro digs out the location for one wooden walkway



Pete Stapleton (left) and Tom Bryden stand in the stream to screw down deck boards. During this project’s hot weather, they all should have been sitting in the creek!

► Adding railing and truss members to the original deck.



◄ The king post truss bridge is nearly complete! They built the deck first, which was quite wobbly until the truss members added the structural triangle that gives the new bridge needed rigidity.



The Annual Sidote Hike

Larry Blumberg, FLT Hike Coordinator

The Finger Lakes Trail annually sponsors four “named” hikes, one held during each season of the year. The Fall Hike (scheduled for Oct 8, 2016) is named for Erv Markert, the Winter Hike (scheduled for Feb 11, 2017) named for Howard Beye, and the Spring Hike is named for Wally Wood, the founder of the FLT. Our midsummer hike honors Ed Sidote, so often takes place in “his” county, Chenango.

Twenty-three hikers gathered on Saturday, July 30 in Chenango County’s Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area for the annual “Ed Sidote Hike,” sponsored by the Finger Lakes Trail organization.

Two variations of the hike were offered, an 8.5 mile hike and a shorter 3 mile version.

Bruce Coon led the longer hike while Donna Coon led the shorter. Before we started, Donna read a statement to the group.

In 2007 for his 90th birthday Ed gave \$1250 and encouraged others to give the same amount starting the Forever Society. With the funds specified for Trail Preservation, in less than 10 years membership has grown to over 70. Forever Society donations go into the Sidote Stewardship Fund along with other earmarked donations, all of them dedicated to trail needs of a wide variety. The Sidote Stewardship Fund now totals over \$259,783.

Ed’s contribution mirrored the Mission Statement of the FLT which is to build, protect, enhance, and promote a continuous footpath across New York State. FOREVER!

Thank you, Ed !!!



Larry Blumberg

How nice to see a group hike enjoying the new bridge by the Bullthistle Alley Cat, described elsewhere in this issue, but they sure look wet!



Peg Fuller

Art & Sharron Sandberg maintain that section of trail. They had a small sign there but it needed to be replaced. If hikers were to go off the wrong way, they felt it was rocky and steep and someone could hurt themselves. So they had an old crutch lying around and felt it was an appropriate post to put a directional FLT sign on.



Larry Blumberg

Heartwarming dedication sign in the Pharsalia shelter where the group huddled out of the rain for lunch.



Larry Blumberg

An eastern cluster Passport Post. Wonder how those rubbings worked on wet paper?



Peg Fuller

Peg Fuller

It's been so extraordinarily dry here in western N.Y. that we are amazed to see big mushrooms in Chenango County!



The Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc. (EIN: 16-6066796) has been issued a \$42.98 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between April 1 and June 30, 2016. The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account on or before August 15, 2016. It may take several days for the donation to appear in the account.

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TRAIL WORK BY BOAT: Gene Cornelius

Longtime trail volunteer Gene Cornelius was one of those rare people who made himself responsible for Trail sections in two states, a piece of the Allegheny National Forest Chapter's section in Pennsylvania and a chunk of the Finger Lakes Trail from the N.Y./Pa. border northward a few miles into Allegany State Park. In June Gene suddenly died at age 75, to everyone's surprise and sorrow. Just last fall we featured a bridge he had built in the North Country Trail magazine, *North Star*.

What your editor hadn't known before this was that Gene had to take a boat to get into the middle of a long roadless section of the National Forest. Eleven miles of forest have highways only at the north and south ends, so Gene and some buddies would cross by boat the sizeable reservoir in the Forest, created by Kinzua Dam across the upper Allegheny River, to get into the middle of that long segment for trail work. Gene also worked on some of our Alley Cat shelter projects in N.Y. a few years back, too.



Stacey Cornelius



Tina Toole, ANF Chapter NCTA

Gene on his last bridge project in Pennsylvania just last fall.

OUR OFFICE DECK IMPROVES

The previous dam superintendent's home that has been our FLT office since 2001 at the Mt. Morris Dam has a deck that surrounds the house on most of three sides, but its condition was ratty to worse on the south side. This summer volunteer Mike Goodwin removed some of the worst of it and repaired the underpinnings at the remaining edge of the primary front deck and put up a new railing. The poorly supported edge of the level below our window air conditioner received new concrete piers in the ground and new horizontal wood members. The disintegrating lattice was removed; all it had been doing is slowing down our resident woodchuck family. After the concrete and carpentry work, Mike restained the whole primary deck.



Mike Goodwin



Irene Szabo

AFTER: Mike cut off the old rotting deck, redid the supports under the new edge of the front deck, and stained the whole thing.

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, October 8, 2016

2016 Fall Erv Markert Hike

Onondaga Trail Loop, FLT Map O1, rev. 9/13

Hike Leaders:

Sigi Schwinge (sigischwinge@aol.com) 315/437-6906

Larry Blumberg (lblumberg@stny.rr.com)

Mike Ogden (mogden1@twcnr.com)

Hike Description:

Two hike lengths will be offered:

a) The 12 mile hike will feature Shackham and Spruce Ponds, the famous Tinker Falls, a million-dollar view over the Labrador Valley, and a lunch stop at the Hemlock lean-to.

b) The 7 mile hike will be somewhat slower and will include Tinker Falls, the Labrador Valley view, Spruce Pond, portions of the Fellows Hill Loop, and Shackham Pond.

Location:

Meet at the Shackham Pond trailhead on Shackham Rd. Park at the large rocks at the side of the road, as you can't see the pond coming up until after the rocks.

Meeting Time:

9 am

Directions to Meeting Point:

There are a couple of different approaches.

1) Driving north on I-81 from the Binghamton area, take Cortland Exit #11 / NY Rte 13. Turn right onto NY Rte 13, heading away from Cortland to the east and north. In 10.8 miles, in Truxton, turn left on to NY Rte 91. In 3.8 miles, turn right on Shackham Rd and proceed for about 2 miles to the Shackham Pond trailhead.

2) Driving south on I-81 from the Syracuse area, take Tully Exit #14 / NY Rte 80 east. In 4.2 miles, turn right (south) onto NY Rte 91 and go 4.5 miles to Shackham Rd. Turn left on Shackham Rd and proceed for about 2 miles to the Shackham Pond trailhead.



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

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, February 18, 2017

2017 Howard Beye Winter Hike

The 2017 Howard Beye Winter Hike will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at 10 am. Planned location is the Huckleberry Bog Nature Trail on Map B3 of the Bristol Hills Trail. This is a loop trail with an approximate length of 4.5 miles. It is hoped that winter conditions will be right for snowshoeing. Hike leader Wendy Stevenson, wsteven@frontiernet.net.

Reminders

Fall Campout Reminder

September 30 - October 2, 2016

The annual Fall FLT Campout will be held Friday, September 30 thru Sunday, October 2 in Bainbridge, N.Y. at the General Clinton Park. Please refer to the Summer *FLT News* for complete details. This packet is also available online at fingerlakestrail.org

Registration deadline is September 20; however, a very limited number of late registrations can be accommodated by contacting Larry Blumberg at LBlumberg@stny.rr.com

NCNST Celebration Day, September 24, 2016

We will once again be celebrating the annual North Country National Scenic Trail Day on Saturday, September 24 with several hikes. Some will be along the North Country Trail where it is coincident with the Finger Lakes Trail, some on the NCTA CNY Chapter section, and the remainder on the Adirondack section. The list of hikes is available online at fingerlakestrail.org (click on the "what's happening" tab, followed by "hikes and events," and then "NCNST Day Events 2016").

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THE INTERRUPTED SOUTH END

Irene Szabo

The Erie railroad built a rather spectacular bridge out of wood, nearly 300 acres worth, over the gorge of the Genesee River at its narrowest point, 818 feet wide by 234 high above the river just south of the dramatic Upper Falls within what is now Letchworth State Park. They built it in 1851, while the Genesee Valley Canal was still operational below. The wood bridge transported trains until 1875, aiming toward Buffalo from Hornell, while the canal below withered and died, and eventually hosted a branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad on its towpath.

However, in 1875, sparks from a coal-burning locomotive set fire to that wooden bridge, despite everything the Erie did to prevent a fire: a watchman walked the bridge after every train passage, and there was a water pipe with faucets its whole length. But this time, when the watchman found a small fire, the faucets were corroded shut, so the huge bridge burned to nothing by morning.

Within four months, the Erie had rebuilt that critical bridge with iron members, some of which remain today! While much of the structure has been modernized over the years, this is still basically, 141 years later, the same bridge that was built in 1875. The uprights are original! Therefore, of course, the current owner and operator, Norfolk Southern, needs a new bridge. Their trains are limited to 10 mph, and such creaking, squealing, and groaning you've never heard from a bridge. They cannot even run fully loaded 286,000 lb. cars there. Over recent decades NS and the state DOT have been working hard to develop a new bridge plan, which naturally included a series of public meetings, since such things just don't happen behind closed doors any more.

Because I'm a compulsive weenie and thought I should safeguard our trail's interests, I attended every one of those public meetings. Our Letchworth Trail, you see, now walks the old towpath and Pennsylvania Railroad bed below the old bridge, as does the Genesee Valley Greenway. I read every plan, and wrote letters to make sure they were all acutely aware of our trail down there. The public plan always said there would be only "intermittent" closures of the trail, but I still wrote letters on behalf of the FLTC, to make sure they were paying attention to trail users below.

Reality intervenes: in February of 2015, a contractor cut the trees along the line of the new planned bridge, only 75 feet south of the active bridge, during the season when an endangered bat is NOT there, and IMMEDIATELY somebody at the Park panicked and thought the newly bare hillside looked dangerous, so closed our trail because they feared something might fall down the hill. The Park put up signs and fences and officially closed our trail until some time in 2018. This was not what the public meetings and plans had promised us.

Fences and closure signs remain, trying to keep hikers from using the trail at all between the Middle Falls overlook (1/2 trail-mile south of the Parade Grounds road) to the entrance of NY 408 near the Genesee River. Scott Brooks, the maintainer for this section of the trail, does have permission from the Park to tidy trail just enough to keep it from disappearing into greenery (and there ARE places where the old towpath/railbed have succumbed to gravity, slumped into the river gorge below, and are now mere scrawny footpaths), but even he is not allowed to go under the RR bridge construction site, and must work from each end. He carries with him a copy of the permitting email from the park superintendent.



Irene Szabo

In March 2015, the trees were removed from the line of the planned new bridge. See our trail below the hillside? The Park had already closed it at this point, and this wonderful viewpoint on the west side is now closed to the public.



Scott Brooks

The trail is closed well before this spot, but a serious barricade of stop signs just north of the bridge stopped Scott for sure.



Scott Brooks

These signs tend to make one pause, too.

OF OUR LETCHWORTH TRAIL



Scott Brooks

Now standing south of the bridge after he approached from the other end of the trail, Scott photographed the stuff on our trail. Unless the contractor has begun removing rocks, this pile will be vastly larger now.

Right now must be one of those planned “intermittent” closures, since the contractor, American Bridge, has been staging major digging machinery on several shelves above the river along the hillside, where they dig and toss immense amounts of rock downward. Scott took pictures of our trail below the bridge, and found it absolutely covered with unstable rock piles, and that was back in late May. I took pictures in late July from the 1930’s staircase on the opposite side of the gorge, looking east at our trail. Leaves obscure much of what I wanted to see at this point, but I could see two levels of shelves cut deeper into the cliff, each with a major machine stationed there.

In other words, do NOT try to defy the closure fences and signs! When Scott was there in late May, he encountered a hiker on both sides of the active railroad bridge, which means somebody stupid somehow lived. On a weekday, there may be tumbling rocks at any time. Duh. As hard as it is now, with leaves in the way, to see what’s going on along the east side, it’s still clear that immense amounts of rock have been cleared out of the hillsides for the abutments of the new bridge, and it’s all been dumped below onto our trail.



Scott Brooks

Looking up toward the existing bridge and the cuts for the new single arch, Scott caught one machine stationed on the first shelf. There are now two shelves, one much lower, and the cut goes much deeper into the cliff.

Stay tuned, but stay safe. 🍁



Irene Szabo

In late July, rerod sticks up in the air, awaiting concrete abutments, one crane is stationed on the top shelf, and a barely visible yellow digging machine is on another shelf below.

DATELINE 10 AUGUST

I just came home from a wonderfully informative presentation at Letchworth State Park by a man who works for the engineer for the bridge design, and learned gobs more about the project. The eventual new bridge will be a single arch spanning the gorge, with no columns into the river, built all of steel members. It looks very graceful, and the bases of the arch press against the gorge sides. The visible shelves being cut into the cliffs are to get down to “good” rock suitable for the bases.

I’ve heard Park patrons worry that blasting seemed dangerous with people allowed so close, but this engineer showed us video of two blasts. The contractor, American Bridge, lays three immense blast mats over the rock surface to be blasted, mats made of thousands of rubber tires woven together with steel cable. The blast lifted these incredibly heavy mats, and dust boiled out from beneath, but the only rock movement was down the face of the cliff into catchment basins at the bottom. What a sight!

Then when work has given them the desired rock face, they still hang a “drag mat” over the whole face, what looks like chain link fence draped over everything, and hung with steel cables attached to pins driven deep into rock at the top.

Eventually these mats will look natural when greenery just naturally fills in over them, but they keep any smaller rocks that may work lose against the face of the cliff, rather than bouncing outward to endanger US on the trail below, or clutter the river.

New CTC Trail - A New One Mile Stretch of the Cayuga Trail

Gary Mallow

The Cayuga Trail, probably the most heavily used hiking trail in the Tompkins County area, is a jewel, and it has just been enhanced. The Cayuga Trails Club first cut the original Cayuga Trail in 1962, and since then it has undergone many extensions, reroutes and improvements like Connors bridges and rough locust and pressure treated wood stairways. But it's doubtful that the volunteers who shepherded those projects to completion exceeded the enthusiasm of the 23 volunteers who came out to work on a one-mile extension of the trail on National Trails Day, June 4th. Creating new hiking trail is a rare event for our club, so that alone accounts for the high turnout and excitement on a beautiful, mostly sunny, low humidity day. But it was more than that.

Although an official distance has not yet been calculated, this extension of the trail brings the total length of the Cayuga Trail close to ten miles. More significantly, it allows hikers to traverse a loop on the east end of the trail without any lengthy road walk or car shuttling. You can now start your hike at, say, the Stevens Suspension Bridge in Ithaca, and hike all the way to Route 13 and back without backtracking, taking in some breathtaking views of Fall Creek and old growth forest along the way.

Club Trails Chair Paul Warrender started the day's events by gathering the volunteers to talk about what we would be doing. He thanked generous landowners Christina Stark and David Weinstein, and Cornell Plantations' Todd Bittner for making this new section possible. He then got down to work and split the crew into three groups. The largest group would attack the jungle-like brush and dead-fall along Fall Creek on the Weinstein property and adjacent Cornell Plantations land. A second group was assigned duty on Cornell Ag school land, pounding in Carsonite and wood posts to be used for blazes. The third group took off for another section of ag school land, where they cut away brush to reveal long-abandoned blazes to be refreshed. All three groups attacked their assignments with relish, and many were sweating freely as they cut, hacked, pounded and dragged brush out of the newly created trail tread. Tom Reimers did much of the blazing. Within three hours the work was well on its way to completion.



Tom Reimers



Tom Reimers

Brand new trail and blazes.

The group was rewarded with a lunch of subs, cookies, chips and beverages provided at club expense and delivered by Robin Carlisle Peck. We were surprised and delighted to be invited to the home of Christina David, just across Fall Creek, where we ate lunch in lawn chairs in the quiet shade of their beautiful back yard. A number of folks new to trail work showed, and lunch at the Weinsteins proved to be a chance for newcomers to get acquainted. After lunch, about half the group finished up the work. We had that indescribable satisfaction of a job completed and well done by 3:00 p.m.

Probably the most significant element of this project is the unique collaboration among groups and landowners that it represents. A small parcel of property along the creek was purchased by David Weinstein and Christina Stark to allow the trail to traverse it, and for hikers to enjoy it. They have no other plans for the property, and this generosity is pretty special in and of itself. Todd Bittner of Cornell Plantations took on the assignment of gaining the approval of Cornell Ag to cross a couple of experimental plots on existing gravel farm road. Plantations' Jules Ginenthal and Cayuga Trails Club's Tom Reimers flagged a route and helped nudge the project forward over the past year. The work of organizing the crew to cut and blaze the new section fell to Paul Warrender.

Without the enthusiasm, cooperation, collaboration and advice of all six men and women, this new trail section would not have been possible.

New kiosks with large maps are planned for trail-heads of the Cayuga Trail, and a new Cayuga Trail map created with the use of GPS is in the planning stages. We hope to make the map available through the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, where you could purchase it online at nominal cost. Watch the website for updates. 🍁



Answers to the Summer “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 Picture:



Anna Keeton

That mailbox is on Meads Creek Road (aka Route 26) across the street from Wixon Road, where there is a small road walk on these two roads for the Crystal Hills Trail just south of Meads Creek State Forest.
Correctly identified Anna Keeton's photo on our Crystal Hills Branch Trail map 1;

Jim Harkin, Monterey, NY

New Picture:



THANKS TO OUR TRAIL LANDOWNERS

Please accept the appreciation of the Board of Managers of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference and hundreds of hikers for your continuing permission to route the path through your property. Even if your trail's caretaker didn't say so directly yet this year, know that we all are grateful for the privilege of enjoying your back woods, streams, and fields. On behalf of all hikers and FLT members, we acknowledge that, without your generosity, we would simply never have a continuous trail across upstate New York.

If you would like a copy of our trail map in your property's neighborhood, please ask the FLT Service Center: FLTinfo@fingerlakestrail.org or 585/658-9320.



Marnie A. Phillips

Alfred P. Dog in a giant chair at Access 1, Map M9 near Swain ski slopes. The chair is landowner whimsey and the subject of many hikers' photographs.

Bridging a Gully on the Bristol Hills Trail

Steve Catherman

Sometime back in 2012, Trail Sponsors Tim and Nancey Wilbur, Jo Taylor, Sharon Galbraith and Doug Cunningham started bugging me about building a bridge on their section of the Bristol Hills Trail in High Tor Wildlife Management Area. We needed a bridge, they said, where the blue trail in High Tor crosses a seasonally high creek in Conklin Gully about a ¼ mile south of the Parish Hill Road parking lot on Map B1. I was skeptical at first, but after visiting the site with my wife on Easter Sunday in the spring of 2013 to see the crossing for myself and not daring to ford the swollen creek, I had to agree with them. We would try to come up with a plan to build a 40' bridge across the deep gully in the forest northeast of Naples.

Several months later in the fall of 2013, I was happily surprised to receive a call from NYSDEC Region 8 Senior Forester Gretchen Cicora asking for any projects in her region that the FLTC would like to submit for possible funding and construction in 2014. She explained that this priority state funding program would be targeted for enhancing access to NYSDEC lands. Not expecting it to be accepted, I submitted the proposed High Tor WMA bridge project as a candidate for this program and learned over that winter that it had been approved by the state, funded upfront with \$10,000, and would be constructed by NYSDEC Operations Crews in 2014!

Subsequent to that bit of good news and after several meetings with NYSDEC Operations and Wildlife Management personnel, the scope of the project changed. Due to the challenging access and site constraints at the proposed bridge location and an increase in the span length from 40' to 50', the budget also grew and the state decided to bring in a contractor to construct the bridge. Because of the significant cost increase,



The new 50 foot bridge over Conklin Gully, from above.

Tim Wilbur

funds for the bridge would now be allocated to the project through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and the bridge would be built in 2015 by The Pike Company, a contractor from Rochester.

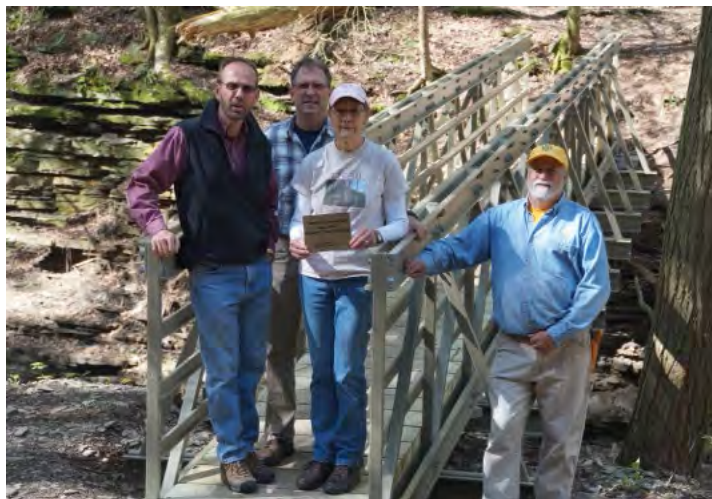
The structure that was chosen for this project was a lightweight fiberglass pedestrian bridge from E. T. Techtonics, a company from Philadelphia that specializes in trail and park bridges.

The specifications for the bridge included (2) 50' olive green fiberglass trusses with a design live load of 85 lbs. per square foot, 42" high railings, cross members, galvanized hardware and 3" x 12" x 36" pressure treated southern yellow pine decking. The bridge was ordered in 2015 for a total delivered price of \$28,000 with the ultimate funding sources for the project becoming the New York Works Initiative and the Environmental Protection Fund.

Pike constructed the concrete footers for the new bridge and installed the fiberglass structure during the mild winter of 2015/2016 and Boy Scout Troop 59 from Bath completed the project in the spring by attaching the timber decking to the cross members. Regional Operations Supervisor Scott Burg, who coordinated this project and grew up next door to FLTC Volunteers Tom and Donna Noteware, obtained approval to mount a plaque on the finished bridge:

*"Dedicated to the Memory of Tom Noteware
Regional Trail Coordinator
Bristol Hills Branch of the
Finger Lakes Trail from 1994
to 2014."*

Scott, Tim Wilbur and I surprised Donna by presenting the plaque to her in a brief ceremony during a visit to the bridge site this past May. Donna continues to be our RTC for the Bristol Hills Trail, coordinating all trail maintainers from Ontario County Park to Mitchellsville. 🍁



Kelly Raab, DEC

At the dedication of this spectacular new bridge, from left to right, Steve Catherman, DEC's Scott Burg, Donna Noteware, and Tim Wilbur.



Ken Mathis



Scott Burg, DEC

The local maintenance team, from left to right, Tim Wilbur, Sharon Galbreath, and Jo Taylor. Missing is Doug Cunningham.

Local trail fans Ken Mathis and his daughter Leah, enjoying the new bridge.



Jo Taylor

Gifts in Honor of

Mary Lee Crosby's 70th Birthday

Bonnie Taggart

Gifts in Memory of

Carol John

Carla Fuquene Pena

Gifts in Memory of

Carol Knight

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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 31. Dues paid after Dec. 31 will be applied to the next membership year.)

Youth (under 17)	\$15	Sustaining:	
Student (under 24)	\$15	Pathfinder (Bronze)	\$100
Limited Income	\$30	Trail Blazer (Silver)	\$250
Adult	\$40	Trail Builder (Gold)	\$251-\$500
Family	\$60	Trail Guide (Diamond)	\$501-\$1000
Youth Organization	\$30	Trail Patron (Platinum)	over \$1000
Lifetime (Individual)	\$600	Lifetime (Family)	\$900
Business/Corporate:			
Bronze	\$100	Diamond	\$1000
Silver	\$250	Platinum	\$2500
Gold	\$500		

RECALLING THE SPRING WEEKEND...HAPPILY



Along the gorge in Robert Treman, hike led by Carol Mallison. By Lucy Leung, a Canadian member of the FLTC



Lucy Leung

Great blue heron in the pond we walked around at Sapsucker Woods on a trail at Cornell's Lab of Ornithology during a Sunday walk.

Cayuga Trails Club hosted a fine weekend in mid-June in Montour Falls, centered around the N.Y. State Fire Academy. The “dorm rooms” were surprisingly decent with individual bathrooms, and the food was especially good for a large scale feedbag. Within walking distance are several memorable waterfalls, and parts of our own Queen Catharine Trail in the immense marsh south of Seneca Lake, between Watkins Glen and Montour Falls.

Evening programs included our annual FLT awards (see article on pg. 10), a presentation by Heather Houskeeper on the plants she found...and ate...along her long FLT hike last summer and promoting her book about plants on our trail, and another by Linda Spielman, a delightful woods nymph who knows EVERYTHING she sees in the woods...tracks, droppings, other tiny signs.

Hikes were thoroughly varied, from easy little strolls to major long humps, and included visits to many of the area’s state parks with world-famous waterfalls. Luckily our mid-June weekend was before upstate dried up this summer, so water did still fall in modest quantities. We thank the Cayuga Trails Club, led by President Gary Mallow, for such a good weekend, and compliment especially Robin Carlisle Peck for her excellent organization of all details! 🍁



Gary Mallow, President of the host club

A partially submerged frog in the same pond at Sapsucker Woods.



Lucy Leung



Lucy Leung

Lucifer Falls within Robert Treman Park. This down and back up hike, gave hikers mileage for their NCTA Hike 100 Challenge for half of the loop.



Robin Carlisle Peck, who ran the whole show



Lucy Leung

Watkins Glen Gorge

End to Ender Scott Vonderheide #404

Hiking and backpacking in the large wilderness areas of our country is what I look forward to each summer. I decided to hike the Finger Lakes Trail as a part of my conditioning for these more challenging and multi-day backpacking trips. Five years later, I have finished the trail, completed as a series of thirty-seven day hikes, from west to east. During the last two springs, because of the distance of the trail from home, I have relied on my wife to shuttle me. At the end of the first day of hiking, she would pick me up. We would spend the night in a nearby motel, enjoy a good dinner out and a bottle of wine. The next day, I would leave my car at the end of the day's hike. My wife would shuttle me back to the point where I left off.

Before beginning the trail, I was told by an avid backpacker that it wasn't worth hiking because of the poor quality of the footpath and the lack of a wilderness setting. He gave up only hundred miles into it. Well, I ignored his advice and hiked the trail anyway. Many times, I had to agree with him that the footpath needs more work. This is noticed in some of the sections that pass through private lands. Keeping the map, compass, directions, and up-to-date trail conditions readily at hand was essential. There were also many sections of the trail that were of high quality, especially on the state forestlands.

The Finger Lakes Trail is not about a wilderness experience. We have trails like that in the Adirondacks. It is a trail that traverses a broad portion of rural New York, a place where I have lived most of my life. The scenery along the trail looks a lot like my



Me taking a break at the Kanakadea Lean-to (M9), which is only a few miles from our home, picture taken by my wife, Cathy.

backyard. Those who enjoy long-distance hikes, especially alone, know its transcendental affects. Hours spent on the trail allow the mind to rest and one's perceptions to strengthen. My familiar countryside transformed to lovely landscapes fitting for Durand, Inness, Homer or Chase. For me, the trail became a country walk through fields and woods, revealed in pastoral vistas and the serenity of a gentle brook crossing. My favorite day was when I enjoyed an afternoon siesta on an unexpected bench with a very pretty view, which was along the trail through Beales Pond State Forest (M27).

I appreciate the dedication of the volunteers who have created and maintain this trail. There are sections of it I look forward to hiking again. And, one of these days, I may join those volunteers to help improve this premier trail. 🍁

Join the North Country Trail Association

A Special Deal for FLT 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:
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New Forever Society Member

Debra Nero

We are grateful that donations were so plentiful this quarter that those to the General Fund or the Sidote Stewardship Fund couldn't fit in this issue, so will be listed next time.

Finger Lakes Trail

2016 Calendar of Events

September 15 - 17 North Country Trail Annual Conference, Fargo, N. Dakota
September 24 North Country National Scenic Trail Day
Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 Fall FLT Weekend, Bainbridge
October 2..... FLTC Board of Managers Meeting, Bainbridge
October 8..... Erv Markert Hike (pg. 29)
October 22..... Regional Trail Maintainers Biennial Meeting, Bainbridge
November 1..... Deadline, *FLT News*
November 4 - 6 Board of Managers Retreat Weekend
November 12..... Regional Trail Maintainers Biennial Meeting, Virgil
February 1, 2017 Deadline, *FLT News*
February 18, 2017 Howard Beye Hike (pg. 29)

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Those of us who met this pair or perhaps only read the several amusing posts to our egroup by Alfred P. Dog will be further delighted by their end-to-end adventures inside. Here they are just starting the west end of the main FLT at the state border. By Matt Colonnese

