

Finger Lakes Trail

NEWS

Winter 2016



Inside...

- ✦ *Bell and Gorczynski Family New Memorial Bridge*
- ✦ *Wonderful End-to-End Hiker Stories*
- ✦ *Allegany State Park Spends New Efforts on Trails*

WINTER 2016



FINGER LAKES TRAIL NEWS

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Mission Statement

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

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COVER: The trail tiptoes high above the Genesee River on a sandy unstable cliff that periodically shears off slivers of cliff, taking blazed trees straight downward. It was here your editor once got to see the rather showy blossoms on the TOPS of chestnut trees straight below us, probably the only time ever in this lifetime. This is the west edge of Map M7 where the river below forms the border with Map M6. Picture by Michelle Johnson

THIS PAGE: Map M6, a few miles west of the Genesee River, on trail heading south and west from Buffalo Rd. in gorgeous woods. Picture by Irene Szabo

President's Message

Pat Monahan

I have great news for the FLT. After a year long search for a full time executive director, I am proud to tell you that Quinn Wright has accepted this new position. Quinn has been serving as interim director for nearly a year. The Board affirmed the fulltime job description with a primary focus on fund development as well as advocacy and communication. Many of you know Quinn in his various roles with the FLT and Foothills Trail Club. He has been a hike leader, assisted with the county hike series, served on the Board, was Director of Crews and Construction, past treasurer and most recently interim executive director. Quinn received the Wally Wood award earlier this year for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the FLT. As president, I look forward to working with Quinn to keep the FLT moving forward to meet the needs of our members and the public.



Larry Blumberg

As I was preparing to write this article, I decided to look at my Winter 2015 message. We had vacancies in key leadership positions on the Board including a part time executive director. We had two office staff employees who were learning new jobs with us. We continued to struggle with our marketing efforts in the absence of a Vice President of Marketing on the Board. The Board recommended a course of action. Let me just comment on a few of these areas from my Winter 2015 article.

- Hire a fulltime executive director—done. Quinn has developed a plan to increase revenue over the next three years. He will emphasize fund development in his time and effort.
- Fully staff the office with two part time employees—done. The office is open daily and Saturdays in season. Based on low usage by our members and the public, Saturday hours have been curtailed. The staff is doing more of the clerical functions for the organization than in the past.
- Increase membership—membership remains flat. We need to concentrate more effort in this area. We need someone with this skillset to lead this effort.
- Increase dues—done. The Board approved an increase in order to increase revenues to support the FLT mission.

- Increase FLT store sales—in progress. We are moving towards on demand marketing rather than maintaining a large inventory of items and will keep a minimum physical inventory with pre-orders occurring four times per year to correspond with events and the holidays. We are also generating income from non-FLTC events when they purchase items from us rather than another vendor. We will still have our store at the spring and fall weekends. It will be staffed by the host club with a plan to compensate them for providing the staff to keep the store open for the weekend.
- Increase volunteer efforts—ongoing. We are proud of the fact that the work effort of the FLT is volunteer based. We will continue to ask for volunteers for specific tasks that need to be done.

- Focus on permanent trail easements ongoing. We have had several trail easements and land donations. We are currently working with the Finger Lakes Land Trust to protect the FLT in the central part of the trail system.

We are making progress one step at a time. We certainly have plenty of room to grow to become an even stronger organization. Our annual Board retreat was November 4-6 at Letchworth State Park. The Board spent the weekend planning and strategizing how to move the organization forward. Some of the topics were: 2017 budget review, updating our long range plan, organizational structure at the Board level and a variety of topics for discussion. I will report back to you in the Spring magazine the outcomes of the retreat weekend.

In the meantime, pull out the winter clothes to stay warm. Wax up the skis. Blow the dust off your snowshoes since you didn't use them last year. Be sure you have plenty of fuel for your hand warmer. Find a friend who loves winter the same way you do and text this message: **“Go take a hike!!”** with me this winter. 🍁

Allegany State Park Continues to Upgrade Trail System in 2016

Thomas Livak, Park Manager and Adele Wellman, Lead Naturalist of Allegany State Park

Allegany State Park offers visitors hundreds of miles of trails for recreation that include a variety of hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross country skiing and even snowshoeing trails. Hiking trails, the most traditional trail use in the Park, are getting some added attention these days. Along with the Finger Lakes Trail (North Country National Scenic Trail) that passes through the park, a number of other popular hiking trails exist here at Allegany and are receiving some upgrades.



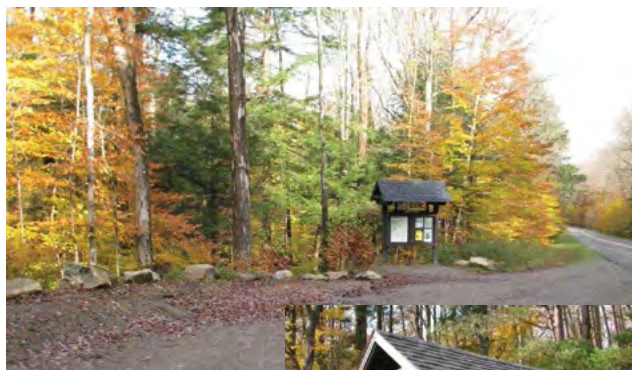
Tom Livak

New relocated Eastwood Meadows trailhead and parking area.

Park patrons may have noticed numerous new trailhead kiosks being constructed throughout the park over the past few years along with some upgraded trailhead parking areas. Allegany State Park received a federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant several years ago that targeted trail and trailhead rehabilitation projects. Both the kiosk construction and parking area improvements were performed by our Regional Park Maintenance staff. These new kiosks have a new display case that holds revised high tech maps with Quick Response or “QR” codes that allow hikers to download the electronic hiking file to their smartphone. These maps were developed in a partnership with Cattaraugus County Department of Real Property Services who provided their expertise to create the finished product. Using GIS technology, new more accurate maps were created including geo-referenced photos of the trail allowing prospective trail users to see the basic features and points of interest along the trail before setting out for their hike. The maps also contain an elevation profile, trail length info, difficulty rating and general safety notifications about the trail. Patron feedback on these new maps and kiosks has been very positive thus far.



Old kiosk design



Adele Wellman



Adele Wellman

Examples of new kiosks at Allegany State Park, Bridal Falls trail ▲ and Beehunter trail near Red House Beach ►

Trail Signage and Markers

Once out on the trail, patrons will notice new trail markers that specifically identify the trail name, number and graphic that shows the primary type of trail the person is exploring. ASP hiking trail markers are all blue in color. The FLT markers are a bit different, but still blue to color coordinate with all the other hiking markers at Allegany. Hundreds of yellow horse trail markers went up this year as well, to help guide our equestrian friends. ASP also has an extensive snowmobile trail system that shares many of our horse trails which require an ongoing commitment to maintenance and grooming. Many new signs have been added over the past few years to help make our trail system one of the best in western N.Y.



Trail Crew

Founded in 2015, the Allegany State Park Trail Crew works each summer to maintain and improve the vast trail network within N.Y.'s largest state park. This new seasonal crew provides

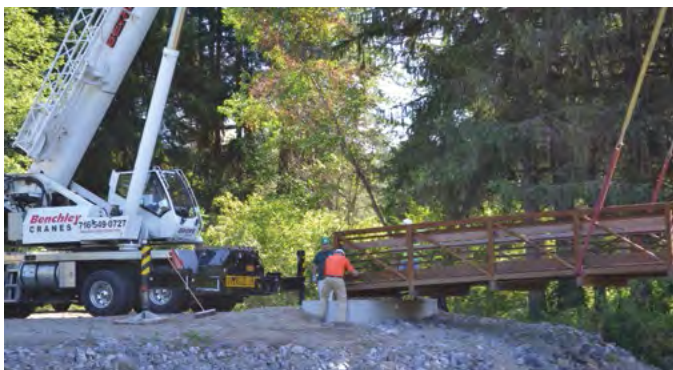
additional staff resources to the Park Operations and Resource Management Departments that are responsible for work projects on park trails. The ASP Trail Crew's main focus is on trail clearing and installing markers to make sure patrons stay on track and safely enjoy their experience in this 65,000 acre park. The crew also monitors trails to identify areas that need renovation or re-routing which helps provide the park with a key planning tool for allocation of scarce financial and manpower resources. GIS technology is also utilized for this planning process, thanks in part to past RTP grant funding that also provided for the purchase of a Trimble GPS unit.

New Trails

The Park has recently added a new trail to the Summit Area of the park called "Bear Paw Trail" that is primarily intended for snowshoeing. It runs the ridge out from the Summit Warming Hut on an old trail alignment which heads to the Stone Tower and loops back to the parking area. In the near future, the park hopes to establish a "Little Ireland" Interpretive Hiking Trail loop that begins at Thunder Rocks and proceeds in and around the upper section of the former Little Ireland settlement in the southeastern portion of the park. Another short interpretive hiking trail is planned for the Old Growth Forest area located near the midway point of ASP Route 1 between Red House and Quaker Areas. Both these proposed trails were identified in the 2010 Allegany State Park Master Plan.

New Trail Bridges

A number of new bridges are planned for ASP to help improve the trail experience. Special funding earmarked for hiking and equestrian trails will allow the park to move forward on installation of bridges on Black Snake Mountain Hiking Trail, Horse Trail 3 (near Little Ireland) and at a future trailhead to access an area formerly known as Vader Hollow. A pre-fab bridge has already been placed at the Vader Hollow area at the site of a former bridge that was locally known as "Mason's Bridge" or "Boyers Bridge," near the Red House Entrance booth, near Interstate 86, Exit 19. This bridge will make it possible to develop a trail that will



Installation of a pre-fab bridge at the site of the former bridge, not far from the Red House entrance to the Park.

ultimately connect to the Conservation Trail and subsequently the FLT/NCNST.

The Township of Red House recently installed a new bridge at the base of Lonkto Hollow which is a major horse and snowmobile

trail that ties into the Bay State Area of the park. Park forces have done a good deal of heavy equipment work on the trail system this fall including work on Lonkto Hollow Trail that runs by the former site of the Big Basin Ski Area. Trails that received attention with drainage and culvert work and other key maintenance upgrades this year include Horse Trail #15/Stoney, Horse Trail #16/Stateline, Barton Powerline Snowmobile Trail, Fox Hollow Snowmobile Trail and Horse Trail #17/Toner Pass. This work was performed by the Regional Maintenance Department that operates our heavy equipment.

New Trail Coordinator

Allegany State Park has recently hired a new Trail Coordinator, Patrick Dove, who will be responsible for furthering the many trail initiatives that have been ongoing in this huge park, as well as spearheading volunteer recruitment to supplement and expand our trail development and maintenance capacity. We look forward to this coordinator working closely with the FLT Trail Stewards.

Future Projects

ASP staff recently completed grant submissions for several trail projects in hopes of securing much needed funding for development of new "single-track" mountain bike trails and a paved multi-use trail for the Quaker Area of the park. We hope to hear news on whether funding was approved later this year. The Western New York Mountain Bike Association (WNYMBA) was instrumental in partnering with ASP on an RTP application regarding the single-track trail proposal. We would also like to thank all the trail groups including FLT for their letters of support for the Quaker Multi-Use Trail grant submitted in October to the NYS Department of Transportation.

The Park is also engaging a local construction contractor to handle several improvements to small sections of Horse Trail #1, #11 and #12 addressing some problem areas along those popular trails. This work will be completed this fall or early spring, as weather permits.

Lodging at Allegany State Park

Allegany State Park continues to make large capital investments in our roadways, other infrastructure, patron facilities and lodging accommodations. Allegany State Park offers a wide variety of camping, cabin and cottage accommodations. The Quaker Area offers 22 full-service cottages open year round along with 173 cabins (40 of which are open during the winter) as well as 189 campsites. Red House Area has 16 full service cottages along with 144 winterized cabins and 134 campsites. Allegany also has two additional unique lodging offerings called "Group Camps" that can house large groups. Camp 12 is located in the Red House Area and Camp 5 is in the Quaker Area, both of which have been recently renovated. We hope you have a chance to visit and enjoy the park soon. For more information on trails at Allegany State Park contact us at 716-354-9101.

For more info about Allegany State Park, visit www.nysparks.com or [www.Facebook.com/AlleganyStatePark](https://www.facebook.com/AlleganyStatePark)

Allegany State Park Interactive Map <http://maps2.cattco.org/asp/>

To reserve a campsite, cabin, group camp or cottage, visit www.reserveamerica.com 

FLT's Fall Weekend Recap

Larry and Susan Blumberg, Triple Cities Hiking Club

The FLT's Fall 2016 Weekend Outing, held on an overcast and at times rainy weekend at the General Clinton Park in Bainbridge was hosted by the Triple Cities Hiking Club and attended by about 100 people.

The first of the 20 weekend guided hikes took off from the park at 10:30 am on Friday morning. The Park's strategic location, just a mile from the trail in Bainbridge, allowed hikes to be offered that covered FLT Map M24 (Bowman Lake State Park) all the way east to FLT Map M31 (Little Pond Campground). In addition, a 40 mile long bike ride was held on Saturday and thoroughly



Jacqui Wensich

Hikers pause for a break on Saturday's Map M27 loop hike near Oquaga Creek State Park.

enjoyed by the nine bikers who rode from the Park and through the beautiful Butternut Valley region along the border of Chenango and Otsego Counties.

Catered meals were provided in the enclosed picnic pavilion at the Park. Friday evening's entertainment was a spirited trivia contest, consisting of 16 general hiking-related questions plus a final bonus question asking each of the nine teams to name the FLT's branch trails required for the Branch Trail award. The winning team received the greatest of prizes, bragging rights for the rest of the weekend!

Saturday evening the group was treated to a



Larry Blumberg

Shoppers browse the FLT store for the latest in bright-colored performance-wear clothing.

special presentation and talk by Jerry Carlson, who is the N.Y. DEC's leading invasive species and pests researcher. Jerry talked about the health of our forests and the several varieties of trees now under attack by invasives.

The Triple Cities Hiking Club would like to thank everyone who participated in the Fall Weekend, and on behalf of the planning committee Susan and I would like to thank the members of the TCHC Board along with each of our hike leaders and co-leaders. 🍁



Larry Blumberg

Cyclists line up Saturday morning ready for their 40 mile Butternut Valley ride.

Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright

Thank you very much for the confidence that you have shown me by asking me to continue as the Executive Director. I have committed to serve you in this capacity for two years with the charge that I focus on development and advocacy in addition to managing the day-to-day operations of the FLTC.

Development will be my initial focus because the plan for the FLTC is to increase its annual revenues by no less than \$70,000 by the beginning of 2019. Increasing those revenues **WILL NOT** come from raising the cost of membership. The plan that I have developed is primarily based upon increasing the level of donations. Each of you might be able to squeeze out a little more in support of the FLT in support of the following objectives:

1. Increase membership.
2. Receive donations from those members who have never donated to the FLTC.
3. Receive donations from users of the trail who have never donated to the FLTC.
4. Develop a fundraising event that will be held annually.
5. Increase the level of sales of maps and goods.

Advocacy will be my secondary focus. I have previously sought your assistance in achieving this objective and have received little support. I have spent many hours trying to analyze why that lack of support occurred and I think I know why. Advocacy implies, in the purest sense, political activity. That is a very unappealing task for most people (including me). One definition of advocacy is pleading or arguing in favor of something such as a cause or proposal. I think that what the FLT means by advocacy is really a combination of advocacy, promotion and marketing. Promotion means that something is done to make people aware of something and to increase its popularity. Marketing is identifying and developing a product, determining its price, selecting a distribution channel and then developing a promotional strategy.

So, I don't need you to be advocates in the political sense unless you already have a personal relationship with a local, county or state official. It will be my job to advocate to those people

when circumstances require that. What the FLTC needs is for all of you to **PROMOTE THE FLT!** That promotion can be as simple as wearing as often as possible FLT apparel, inviting people who do not regularly hike to go on a hike or walk in the scenic beauty of the FLT, helping in support of our fundraising efforts like the upcoming "Hike for Health" one day end-to-end hike, securing promotional articles or video in the local printed or broadcast media, distributing our printed materials, getting to know the owners of the local businesses with which we may partner.



Brandon Wright

Quinn modeling his FLT wardrobe

Marketing the FLT is an ongoing effort that began in 1962. The **product is the Finger Lakes Trail!** The **price of the FLT to the consuming public is FREE!** The **distribution channel is the entire FLT trail system!** The **promotional strategy is defined in the preceding paragraph.** The FLTC needs all of its members to be involved in **PROMOTION!** Please help in any way that you can. Contact a board member, the office, one of our outstanding affiliate clubs, or me to volunteer to help in some capacity.

Thank you once again, and I look forward to hearing from many of you with your offer to help. I wish you happy holidays and happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you on a committee and on the trail. 🍁

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

Join the FLT Yahoo Groups E-Mail List

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference's e-mail list is a discussion group hosted by yahoo.com. Its purpose is to allow the subscribers (approximately 650 people) to communicate information to each other pertaining to FLT hikes and other 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.com and follow the instructions for subscribing. If you have any problems or questions, contact one of the co-moderators.

Kevin Armstrong - #97 to Complete the Branch Trails

It all started on a gray day in March 2013. With patches of snow on the ground, and snow flakes in the air, I forced my way through multiflora rose thickets near Naples Creek, engaged in one of my favorite springtime hobbies, hunting for shed deer antlers. At one point I came out of the thicket onto a nice trail blazed with bright orange marks. Before long I encountered an orange plastic marker nailed to a tree, "Bristol Hills Trail." Hmmm? How could I live in the Bristol Hills all these years, and spend all of my free time outdoors, and never hear of the Bristol Hills Trail? I went home and looked it up on the computer and learned that it was a branch of the Finger Lakes Trail system and that the 50 plus mile long trail was only a branch of a nearly 1000-mile-long trail system that spanned the state. I was intrigued. I have spent so much time in the woods, fields, creeks, and lakes of the Bristol and Italy Hills that I feel a sort of stewardship. This is my home turf. It was intolerable to me that there was a well maintained trail running through my hills that I did not know first hand. The die was cast. I had to walk that trail.

I called my youngest brother Brian and told him that I planned to hike this trail and asked if he would like to join me. He could not commit to the entire trail but agreed to join me when he could. On April 20, 2013 brother Brian and my dog Timber joined me in my first steps down the Bristol Hills Trail. I think I was hooked in the first half mile. The northernmost six miles of the Bristol Hills Trail is still my favorite section of all the branch trails. By September 2013 I had finished the trail and harbored a desire to hike all of the branch trails and maybe the main trail, too.

Since that time, hiking sections from 5 to 12 miles at a time I have been picking away at the branch trails a little at a time. My wife Kathy (God bless her) spent a long weekend every year at a knitters' convention in Cortland. I went along and used the opportunity to hike the Onondaga Trail. She would get up with me in the morning and follow me to a place where I would drop off a car, then, in her own car, she would drive me a day's walk down the trail and drop me off. I would walk the trail back to my car and she would go off to her day of seminars. We would meet again around dinner time. And do it all over again the next day.

For the Interloken Trail and the Letchworth Trail Timber and I would get up early and head out to the trailhead early in the morning so we could escape the midday heat. In the early afternoon Kathy would pick us up at some predetermined location and run us back to my car. I hiked most of the Crystal Hills Trail with Donna and Bruce Coon. We would meet and spot a car then all ride together back to a start point.

Little by little, like an inch worm, over three summers, I managed to finish the five easternmost trails. Still, that 135+ mile long Conservation Trail loomed over me. How was I ever going to work out the logistics to hike that trail?

One 90-degree day in 2015, trudging up a hill in the middle of the Crystal Hills Trail I mentioned to Donna that I did not know how I would ever get the Conservation Trail done. She mentioned that she and Bruce wanted to hike the Conservation Trail and that Max and Teresa Blenis were also interested. We were all friends from the Steuben County section of the 2014 FLT Cross County series. We all hiked at more or less the same speed. Over the winter of 2015-2016 the plan was put in place. Max worked out the logistics and in May 2016 we began our Conservation Trail quest. The southern end of the Conservation Trail is also part of the main trail that I would be hiking as part of the 2016 Cattaraugus County Series so it all came together quite nicely.

My experiences on the branch trails have enriched my life. Now, as I drive around New York, those hills that I see off in the distance take on a whole new meaning because I have walked over them and I now know them first hand. The branch trails have turned me into a hiker. My goal went from the Bristol Hills trail, to all of the branch trails, to all of the Finger Lakes Trail system. I set a branch trail goal of finishing the branch trails at a number under 100.

Now I'm determined to finish the main trail. I will do that as part of the FLT Cross County Series which I have come to love as much for its social value as for its exercise. For a while I wondered how I was going to fill the gap created by the conclusion of the branch trail hikes. Then I realized that there are 46 peaks in the Adirondacks beckoning me. I might give them a go.

Happy Trails! 🍁



Brian Armstrong

Timber and Kevin Armstrong pause along an old fence line in the woods, with remnants of a stump fence behind them.

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

Main Trail:

#408 Joe Daley, Ithaca
#409 Jeffrey Sargent, LaFayette
#410 Lawrence Blumberg
#411 Susan Blumberg, Johnson City
#412 Karen Goodman, Chenango Falls
#413 Richard Maggi, Athens, PA
#414 Ethan Gravino, age 12
#415 Christian Gravino, age 14
#416 Sarah Gravino, E. Aurora
#417 David Peterson, Cazenovia
#418 David Fish
#419 Jeffrey Patterson, Rochester 2nd (#308)
#420 Kathleen Disque, Kirkville
#421 Barry Erickson, Fairport
#422 Donald Webster, Burdett
#423 David Zimmer, Fairport
#424 Mark Field, Fulton
#425 Pamela Larnard, Horseheads

Branch Trails:

#93 Joyce Ermer (#396)
#94 Scott Brooks (#376)
#95 Willa Powell (#401)
#96 Michael Maue (#361)
#97 Kevin Armstrong
#98 Howard Camp (#318)

Updates:

Jennifer Cubitt plans to hike a large portion of the main trail in September. David Marchner is continuing on his Branch Trail hikes. Jennifer Reidy of Larmont continues on her main trail hike.

Comments:

We had 27 hikers completing the main trail in 2016, including two kids, six women and four second timers. 7 Branch Trail finishers; all but one are also main trail E2Ers.

There were only 12 end-to-enders from 1974 to 1991, total, but there have been at least 12 finishers almost every year from 1993 to 2016. In 2008 there were 26, probably because of the county hike series cycle and 29 in 2011, probably for Ed Sidote's 90th birthday. Only 9 finished in 2014.

Car Spotters:

David and Sherrie Thurkins have moved away so are no longer car spotters for M 12-14. We thank David for being a car spotter for many years.

Special thanks to trail angel Larry Bates who was able to assist hikers in last minute need on very short notice in that same area.

New E2Er #406 Jon Ulrich has agreed to become a car spotter, M15-17. He lives near the trail on M16 and is willing to assist day and thru hikers as needed. (He is still working so the more notice the better.) Michael Maue (#93) just completed the branch Trails. He has agreed to become a car spotter for CT 9-12.

While we always need car spotters, we are in MOST need for some who live near maps 1-5 and 28-33 and on the Crystal Hills Branch Trail.

Email jwensich@rochester.rr.com to apply or use the form directly from the website. This includes the Branch Trails. Thanks to all car spotters!! 🍁

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



Susan Turnquist

New E2Ers rec'd awards at the county hike final dinner 9-17-16

Back row: David Zimmer, David Fish

Front: Pamela Larnard, Willa Powell, Kathy Disque, Joyce Ermer, Mark Field, Jacqui Wensich

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

Karen Goodman, End-to-End #412

When Susan and Larry Blumberg invited me to “section hike” the FLT early in 2007, I thought it would be an interesting and a challenging endeavor, but I had little confidence that I would actually complete the trail. In fact, I missed several of the first half of our group’s hikes. As we progressed farther west, I became more committed to finishing the trail and, usually as part of the Triple Cities Hiking Club schedules and to prepare to lead hikes for FLT campouts, I led or co-led hikes to get back on track. For the great majority of our hikes, we traveled from east to west, which is opposite from the descriptions accompanying the maps. This made for some interesting challenges at times but we always managed.

One of the advantages of hiking the FLT in parts is that I got to experience the trail from April through October and see the different types of beauty, from wildflowers to fall foliage, and meet different trail condition challenges, from frozen ground and snow to knee-high stream crossings and ankle-deep mud. I also learned that not all road walks are bad. Here are a few of my fond memories of my 10 years spent in becoming an end-to-end.

I loved the state parks: Bowman Lake (Map 24), Robert Treman (M17), Watkins Glen (M14) and, of course Allegany (M1). I’m glad part of my taxes can support such beautiful places.

At the east end, the trail includes a long stretch on Denning Road, which parallels the East Branch of the Neversink River for part of the distance; this is a very lovely section, despite being a road walk. On Denning Road near Claryville, there was a pottery shop which was open. Being fans of hand-made ceramics, Susan and I stopped in for a look and a chat with the proprietress. She agreed to stay open and hold my purchases until we finished our hike at the Round Pond parking area and could return. I still enjoy using those pieces in my kitchen.

Other road walks provided beautiful vistas, views of interesting houses (Susan and I would sometimes comment on whether we’d like to own them) and encounters with farm animals. All added to the variety and enjoyment of the trail without being part of a true off-road trail. I also enjoyed the road walks through the villages of Watkins Glen and Salamanca; both have quite picturesque sections and friendly people.

I’ll always be glad to have been introduced to the Masonville General Store, a truly amazing shop where hikers are always welcome. I try to stop in whenever I’m anywhere near there.

Speaking of Masonville, while traveling to Schenectady with my sisters, I closed the shortest gap in my end-to-end progress by crossing the Church Street Bridge. I parked the car at the south end of the bridge, ran across and back and then took my sisters to the General Store. They were immediately enthralled—with the store, not the trail.

One last memory: as of September, 2015, I needed to fill in a gap on M11 from Route 86, access 7, to Robinson Road, access 4. The Blumbergs, Rich and Cathleen Maggi, and I were on our first (I think) overnight FLT trip. The weather was horrible: raining, windy, cold; and the trail markings were impossible to find going through some farm land. Even though they had already hiked this section and Susan was recovering from a cold, Susan and Larry accompanied me, all of us getting completely soaked. What friends! Thank goodness we had motel reservations and, once we dried out, we enjoyed a nice dinner with the Maggis.

Seeing so much of New York State via my own two feet has been a great pleasure and lots of hard work, giving me a sense of satisfaction at the end. Rich and Cathleen Maggi and Larry and Susan Blumberg and many others at various times (including multiple end-to-end Jack Sexton, who drove 3+ hours from Vestal to join us in western New York several times) provided excellent, stimulating and often helpful company. Thanks especially to the Blumbergs for including and encouraging me in this process. I look forward to many more hikes on the FLT. 🍁



Cathleen Maggi

At the FLT / N.Y.-Penna. line (left to right, Rich Maggi (#413), Larry Blumberg (#410), Susan Blumberg (#411), and Karen Goodman (#412)).

Ten hiking seasons ago, a group of hikers from the Binghamton area started on a quest to hike the FLT from the Catskills to Allegany State Park -- in sequence. That is, we hiked from one point to the next and did not skip any part of the trail, even if we had hiked it previously. Our approximately 50 day hikes were about 10-12 miles in length.

Along the way we rediscovered beautiful New York State, with its ferns and wild flowers (and stinging nettles) in all their glory, streams and waterfalls, mountains and valleys, lovely vistas, farm lands, country roads, and charming villages.

Our group included various hikers, but Larry and Susan Blumberg, Rich Maggi, and Karen Goodman completed the journey together in August 2016. We were assisted by our wonderful and essential trail angel and fellow hiker, Cathleen Maggi. Until we were well beyond Letchworth State Park, our hikes were part of our Triple Cities Hiking Club's day hike schedule, and many of our friends from the TCHC accompanied us at different times on this long trek.

We especially want to thank all of the trail maintainers, land owners and other FLT volunteers who have made and continue to make such a wonderful trail possible. The Alley Cat crews deserve a very special salute for all of their hard work. We hope all of these volunteers realize what a gift they have given to the citizens of New York State. 🍁

I was a reluctant FLT hiker. I moved to northern Pennsylvania in 1986, and even though I was an avid hiker, I never hiked on the FLT. It was just a "walk in the woods." I went to places of greater grandeur like the Adirondacks or the Catskills or waterfall hikes... places with the "big views."

Larry & Susan Blumberg started their "east to west" series on the FLT in the Catskills in 2007. I didn't join in: too many conflicts with the kids' high school sports plus the FLT didn't have the majestic views, so the limited time I had to hike, I picked the spectacular areas.

When Larry & Susan and the Triple Cities Hiking Club made it to Interstate 81 in 2010, they were getting nearly into my "back yard" (any hike with less than an hour drive to get there). My daughter and I were to meet my wife Cathleen in Buffalo in the evening, so we joined the TCHC group for a hike from I-81 thru Greek Peak. It was a nice hike, so I joined in the next one, and the next one, and... I was hooked.

The FLT provided a really pleasant hiking experience... the pretty hemlock groves, streams, flowers... a really enjoyable hike in the woods. Once I was hooked, my wife Cathleen was my "enabler" (aka trail angel), who would drop me off and head to the other end of the day's hike... walk in to join me and we would walk out together. I walked east from I-81 with Cathleen (with Larry providing some opportune "make up" hikes), and west from I-81 with Larry, Susan, Karen and a collection of TCHC others.

After completing my third time around of the Adirondacks on an August 6th, with hordes of people on Colvin and Blake, it was so nice to go back to the quiet FLT trail in Allegany State Park the next Tues/Wed. and finish the trail with good friends. 🍁

Howard Camp - #98 to Complete the Branch Trails

The Finger Lakes Trail

The wind was right; the sun was bright, so off I set for pleasure
Green hills and leaves of matchless gold and orange and brown: a treasure
How strange it seems so few do stride to view these gifts of nature,
But I take joy in hill and swamp, and my return in sure.

My legs respond to rise and fall of the trail's set terrain
And bring forgotten peace of mind to calm my busy brain.
The shapes and hues of green and brown and sights too varied to relate
Expand the sense of peace and calm surrounding this most pleasant state.

And 'fore and after on the road the finest landscapes wait.
The sweeping vistas save themselves for a more remote viewing state.
And at the end come dining pleasures with another of nature's fans.
This well completes our brief respite from city's loud demands.

With gratitude to trail builders and others gone before,
We find such lasting pleasures here, though feet are sometimes sore.

Howard Camp

10/15/2016

Oasis Poetry Group

*Howard was main trail end-to-ender #316,
and was assisted on his branch trail quest by his
wife Carole, #317.*

TRAIL FOR SALE - and a nice lot to go with it

Dave Newman, Vice President for Trail Preservation

For Sale: 62 wooded acres. This secluded property is accessed by a ¼ mile 4WD drive access from an all-season road. Great views. Includes approximately 4,000 feet of easement for the Finger Lakes Trail, and connects directly to 5.5 miles of wooded trail in adjacent Bully Hill State Forest. Allegany County, Town of Almond Tax Parcel 113.-1-18.1. FLT Map M9, between Bully Hill State Forest and Bishopville Road. Alfred-Almond School District, Town and School Taxes \$2,684.

Sound good? For the right person, this wooded lot on the FLT, adjacent to State Forest, and a short drive from the Almond exit off Interstate 86 can be your own private recreational paradise. And so it was when the Carol Cochrane Levitan family purchased the property. They enjoyed many years of visits, and good hunting by family and friends. Dreams for an “off the grid” cabin never quite materialized, Carol moved to Jacksonville, Florida, and her daughter’s family enjoyed the property for a while before they moved to Kentucky.

The trail has been on the property for a long time, one of the 500 some private parcels where the owner allows the trail but where we have no permanent permission. Now, as the Levitan family prepares to put the property up for sale, they have most generously granted a permanent easement which provides that the trail will stay on the property in perpetuity.

The easement negotiation included moving the trail from its former location, where it cut across the middle of the parcel right where a purchaser might want to put that dream cabin some day, to a location following along the property border. The easement also provides for a blue blazed side trail following down that ¼

mile driveway and coming out 100 yards south of a good parking location at the corner of Bishopville and Hopkins Road.

We are thankful for the many years that the Levitan family has allowed the trail to cross their property, and now for their easement that ensures the trail can stay there, forever. The current plan is that this property will be listed for sale in the spring; in the meantime, any interested reader has a “heads up” and can contact Bryana Levitan nativeL03@gmail.com before it is listed. 🍁



Peter Wybron

These very old stamped metal mileage markers measure trail distance eastward from the Genesee River, an old convention invented by the Genesee Valley Hiking Club in their earliest days constructing our trail. One is on the Levitan property, plus others can still be found. Some have been “lost” to reroutes. An industrial arts teacher from the club made them; who can tell us his name?



Dave Newman

This is the view from the blue-blazed side trail, overlooking the luscious valley where Interstate 86 is hidden below.

Fall 2016 Erv Markert Hike Report

Larry Blumberg, FLT Named Hikes Coordinator

Sixteen hikers from across the state, ranging from Buffalo to Rochester to Syracuse to Binghamton, joined together to celebrate the FLT's annual Fall "Erv Markert Hike" on Saturday, October 8, 2016. The hike, which took place on a fairly mild but very overcast day punctuated with a series of light rain showers, was held on the Onondaga Branch Trail (FLT Map O1), located south and east of Syracuse, N.Y.

This hike was named for the 1970s FLT Trails Chair, Erv Markert, who was responsible for overseeing the building of hundreds of miles of FLT during its infancy.

Two hike lengths were offered; most of the hikers chose the longer 12 mile version rather than the shorter 6 miler. As advertised, the longer hike route took the group past Spruce Pond, up to Jones Hill and the fabulous view over the Labrador Unique Area, over to Tinker Falls, then on to Hemlock Glen Lean-to for lunch, and finally, Shackham Pond.

Sigi Schwing, who also coordinated the day's event, led the shorter hike, while Mike Ogden and Larry Blumberg teamed up to lead the longer hike.

Thanks to all who participated ! 🍁

Photos have been posted to the Triple Cities Hiking Club's website, <https://sites.google.com/site/tchcn/home>

It is so cool to run across hiker whimsy in the middle of nowhere.

The Onondaga Branch Trail, which takes hikers north and east toward the Adirondacks for the North Country Trail route, is blazed blue.



Larry Blumberg



Larry Blumberg



Fall brings chilly mornings with lots of dew, so Debbie has noticed the spectacular cobwebs in the grass surrounding the office at the Mount Morris Dam. Enjoy her pictures.



Photos by Debbie Hunt

A Naturalist's View

D. Randy Weidner

Hiking the Finger Lakes Trail in winter presents some special challenges, but also some new opportunities. Among the challenges are dealing with low temperatures and wind, being more careful of your footing on frozen and snow-covered terrain, and watching closely for the tree blazes so you stay on the trail. By paying closer attention to where you walk, you have a unique opportunity to see the woods in a different way. Gone are the leaves that restricted views in other seasons. Even in snowless woods, the lack of leaves significantly lengthens your view of the natural landscape and its inhabitants. Staying alert, you will often see birds and animals you would have passed by in other seasons. And when the trails are snow-covered, you can indirectly discover many more birds and animals who shared your trail. As you might have guessed, I am talking about finding bird and animal tracks.

Identifying tracks on snow-covered trails depends significantly on the condition of the snow. A cold, light, fluffy snowfall will not yield reliable tracks. This type of snow is too easily disturbed by even the lightest wind, and animals will not leave an accurate track. Similarly, deep snow will crumble into any print left by foot or paw, rendering the track unintelligible. But when the trail is covered with an inch or two of new, wet snow, birds and animals travelling over the landscape leave a characteristic record of who was there and where they were going. Approach these tracks carefully and notice every detail about the track. Of importance are the size of the track, its general shape, the spacing between tracks, the alignment of successive tracks, the direction of the animal's travel, all details like the number of toes and types of lobes on footpads, and any other disturbance in the snow, like evidence of a claw mark or a tail drag between the tracks. This article will discuss the likely tracks you may find, starting with the easy ones, and working up to the more challenging differentials.

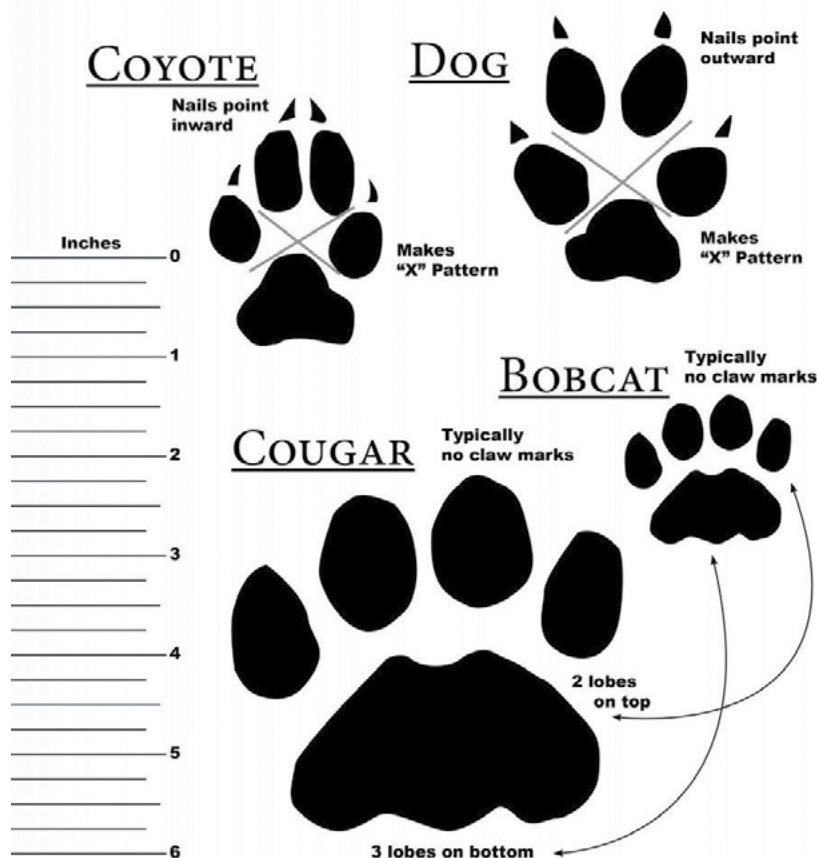
The only three large bird tracks you are likely to see are the Wild Turkey, the Ruffed Grouse, and the American Crow. Wild Turkeys leave a typical bird track with three, evenly-spaced, long,

smooth toe prints in front, and a short nub of a track behind the middle toe. Turkeys usually move around in flocks in winter, so expect to find tracks of several individuals. Ruffed Grouse on the contrary are singular birds leaving a typical bird track, much like the turkey but smaller, and different in two other important ways. Instead of the turkey's trailing nub mark, look for a trailing claw print separated from the rest of the footprint and off center from the middle toe. Most diagnostic of a grouse print in good tracking snow is evidence of fuzzy, not smooth, toe margins, caused by lateral scales on the grouse's foot, serving as snowshoes of a sort. American Crows have a typical bird footprint with three, smooth toes forward and a prominent, equally long toe off the back. Most crows do not walk with evenly spaced toes, but typically hold two of their toes closer together.

The only native hooved animal in our winter woods is the White-tailed Deer. Almost everyone has seen the typical upside-down, heart shaped, cloven deer tracks. Expert trackers try to differentiate buck tracks from does. Generally bucks are larger and heavier, consequently leaving in fresh snow the impression of their two dew claws behind the hoof track, wider splaying of their cloven hooves, front tracks wider apart than hind tracks due to their wide chests, and often a scraping through the snow of the hoof tips before stepping down fully, caused by stiff-legged walking. None of these features is an absolute differentiator.

Because this discussion is of upland animals in mid-winter, I will not discuss the tracks of beaver, muskrat, otter, and mink, which are more aquatic, nor raccoon, skunk, woodchuck, and bear which are mostly sleeping and inactive. The Virginia Opossum does not hibernate but shelters from severe cold. Opossum tracks are distinctive with a small forefoot pad and five, short, knobby toes, contrasting with a larger hindfoot pad with four, longer, knobby toes forward, plus a fifth 'thumb', typically pointing backward. Also look for the mark of the opossum's dragging tail in the snow.

Cotton-tail Rabbits set



parallel, rounded forepaw tracks without evident pads or toes, and oblong, parallel hindfoot tracks, also not showing pads or toes. A running rabbit's direction is revealed by the hindfoot tracks in front of the forepaw tracks.

The two likely rodent tracks you may see are squirrels and mice. Rodent tracks show four toes and a small pad mark from forepaws, and five toes and a larger pad mark from hindpaws. Running squirrel tracks, like the rabbit, show the hindfoot ahead of the forefoot and end at a tree trunk. The White-footed Deermouse's tracks are tiny, and he may also have a tail drag mark.

More common than ever in southern New York is the Fisher. Fishers will leave a cat-like track, but importantly, with FIVE toes, rather than a cat's four toes, off a pad print fore and hind. A fine point to notice is that Fisher pads have two small pad lobes on the forward edge and two, wider, larger lobes on the trailing pad edge.

If you have been paying attention to toe numbers and pads, you can differentiate the animals discussed above. Now comes the surprisingly tricky differentiation of dog and cat tracks, because all have fore and hind pads with FOUR toes off each. Also complicating things, these two carnivores present a variety of sizes from small house cats to Cougars, and small foxes to Great Danes. There are no resident Cougars in southern New York, but people frequently think they see Cougar tracks. I hope the following discussion helps you determine what made any large tracks you may see. House cats and the Bobcat (which like the Fisher is

becoming more common in our area) are the two felines you may see leaving tracks. Look carefully at the pad print, and you should see one broad/flat (most house cats) or two small (Bobcat) lobes on the forward pad edge, and THREE distinct lobes off the back edge of each pad mark. (This is why good snow conditions are critical). Usually the four toe marks do not show a claw, because cats can retract their claws.

Canine tracks you might see include foxes (Red and Gray), Coyotes, and domestic dogs. All canine pad prints have one forward lobe and two back edge lobes. Canines also MAY show claw prints off their four toes, but not necessarily. The line of fox tracks is typically very straight, one foot directly in front of another. Coyotes' prints are typically very compact, with little splaying of the toes shown in dogs. I have seen Coyote tracks so compact I thought they were deer, until I looked closer and saw pad and toe prints.

To be absolutely sure the track is canine, trace a tangential line along each lateral pad print edge. If these lines form an 'X' that includes two toes at the top space of the 'X', this is a canine. Because of their pad shapes, it is more difficult to place similar lines along feline pad edges, but if you do, they will include only one toe. The 'X' test works for all canines and all felines, no matter the size of the animal. So if someone thinks they have Cougar tracks, but the 'X' includes two toes, it is just a big dog. Armed with this information, this winter if you are hiking the Trail and the snow conditions are right, see if you can learn who else has been using our Trail. 🍁



Map B1 across the seasons

The images were taken from County Rd 12 which runs parallel to the FLT Bristol Hills Trail north of Naples and looks across West River and Middlesex Valley to High Tor Wildlife Refuge.

David Kotok

North Country Trail News

Irene Szabo

Last year WE hosted the annual gathering of North Country Trail people from every one of the long trail's states at Greek Peak near Cortland, so naturally it was time this year to go back to the other end of the Trail; we ricocheted all the way to Fargo, North Dakota, in September. A nice-sized contingent of Yorkers, as Daniel Patrick Moynihan used to call us, attended, and had a marvelous time. Local members had raised over \$9000 to hire big busses, which made logistics very easy for visitors: on Thursday there were local hikes in Fargo and adjacent Moorhead on either side of the border Red River. On Friday we ALL went to nearby Minnesota to explore fairly new trail in the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge (that location a first for the NCT) and could easily take long or short walks there, radiating out from their visitors center.

Then on Saturday, everybody enjoyed sites in North Dakota, enabled by our busses to visit different spots for varied hikes. The BIG event on Saturday was the final six-mile hike of our latest NCT end-to-enders through the Sheyenne National Grasslands, celebrated at the end where all hikes ended up at a party tent at the Ekre Grassland Preserve, a Norwegian bachelor farmer's preservation gift to the public. Best of all, the couple who finished their huge NCT walk is a pair of FLT members from Canandaigua!



Dove Day

North Dakota "beef" on the trail in the Sheyenne National Grasslands. This is normal there!

Ruth and Dan Dorrough, who look like the quintessential little old white haired couple, have spent the last seventeen years walking nearly 5000 miles, starting out by becoming almost accidental FLT end-to-enders when pressed by Ed Sidote to declare their intentions. He was pushy that



Dan and Ruth in Minnesota, taken by Joan Young, who is also one of the very few end-to-enders on the NCT.



Dove Day

Dan and Ruth's last feet on the NCT are celebrated by other hikers, our Mary Coffin on the left and eastern New Yorker Mary McDonald on the right.

way. After they finished N.Y., they just kept going into Pennsylvania, and pretty soon were undertaking the 1100 miles of the NCT in Ohio! For several years it was a vacation project, but once both retired, they took a car and a van and spent almost half the year travelling, camping, and walking trail almost daily.

As Ruth puts it, because they backpacked only in a few really remote sections that required it (like the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in far northern Minnesota), they could afford to *savor* the trail, the people, each new neighborhood. For a few years they were quietly slipping through the woods and under the radar, but I "told on them" in front of the whole gathering in Duluth in 2014. Once everybody along the way

began to realize who they were, they were invited by local trail-hosting chapters of the NCTA on hikes or to stay at people's houses. Dan's big smile and Ruth's dry wit made them welcome guests, and pretty soon they had literally hundreds of new friends. That was obvious as they walked through a gauntlet of hugging and cheering trail mates and their own family members for their last few hundred feet in North Dakota. The event in Fargo was named a Celebration, and the event certainly was that for Ruth and Dan!

Ruth's next stage of life was immediate, too: she has been on the NCTA board for two years now, serving as the Secretary, and by means of her quiet but insightful comments had come to be regarded by the rest of the board, an admirable and august group of talented people, too!, as a real asset, so she was elected President of the Board. Applause! Apparently Dan would rather put his hand into the garbage disposal than go to a meeting, but Ruth is a plucky administrative type, very good at negotiation and gaining consent.

Ruth and Dan are not the only Yorkers who were honored at this event. At the NCTA annual award ceremony, several of our own were awarded: Matt Branneman, until recently our VP of Crews and Construction, received the Trail Builder Award, and Steve Catherman, just retiring as long-standing VP of Trail Maintenance, was honored with a Sweep Award, since, as the nomination for him said, few of us FLT members realized just how much work he did quietly in the background in that job. And the Stone Quarry Hill Art Park within the Central N.Y. Chapter's trail bailiwick in Cazenovia was honored as Landowner of the Year.

Lynda Rummel (NCTA board officer) and I (editor of their magazine, *North Star*) drove there and back, which is slightly insane, since it's a long three days' drive each way, but I do enjoy seeing the trail states along the way, and even sampling the trail in each state we visited. Maybe I can get my Hike 100 patch for the National Park Service's 100th birthday with a hike in each state of the North Country Trail? This is my fourth trip to North Dakota, a strange and lovely place I can't get enough of, and on the way there, we were hosted by a couple in northern Wisconsin, he on the NCTA board, at their lakeside "cottage." Jerry took us to a nearby cranberry bog he has become enthused about, where we both learned for the first time how cranberries are grown, not IN water, not until harvest time when the impoundments where they are grown are flooded, which floats the berries to the surface. I grew up in south Jersey, where cranberries are big business, but I still didn't know that. I now have two winters' worth of cranberry relish in my freezer.

Next year the same celebration will be held in late July along Lake Superior at Marquette, Michigan, in their Upper Peninsula. The drive is only a day and a half, so even more of us should visit! 🍁



Irene Szabo

Our own Lynda Rummel sitting in the hand of the outsized Paul Bunyan statue in Akeley, Minnesota, on our way home. Immense fiberglass tourist attractions are a major part of midwestern small town lore in our trail states.

Gifts in Memory of RICHARD LIEBE

from

Barbara & Robert Adams

Jeannine Clark

Bill & Sally DeWitt

Virginia Illi

Susan Liebe

Lower Valley Book Group

Lorraine Manelis

Bill & Mitzi McCrady

Donna Noteware

Jennifer Peason & Doug Hoffman

Charles & Sarah Stackhouse

Keith & Annette Toaspern

Ruth Anne Weisenauer

Randy Weidner

Building Memories (And A Bridge) On the Conservation Trail

Joe Bell

This is the story of how I found myself working with my family members and members of the Foothills Trail Club as part of a team building a foot bridge for the Finger Lakes Trail System on a cold and gray Saturday in October.

One can never tell where the trail of life will lead us. I was at the home of my good friend and brother-in-law Don Gorczynski on the fourth of July in 2012 for our annual family celebration. Don was telling me about completing the hike of the Adirondack 46 Peaks with his brother David. Don was seeking a new challenge and he mentioned the Finger Lakes Trail as a possibility. I had missed out on the 46 Peaks and was eager to join in the adventure. Over the next couple of months, I did some research and suggested that we could start with a hike of the Conservation Trail. A hike that is 178 miles long seemed to be daunting, but Don and I managed to convince David and my son Nick to join us. Our basic plan was to hike the trail in 8 to 10 mile sections. We would take two cars, park one at our exit point and then drive to the trail head. The maps provided by the Finger Lakes Trail made planning easy. These maps are very detailed and the trail descriptions and way points on the reverse of these maps were a great help. Don was a registered nurse which meant he had to work every other weekend, so, given the planned hike distances, the seasonal restrictions and western New York winter weather we assumed it would take us just about one year to complete the trail.

We scheduled our first hike for 13 October 2012 at Map M1 with a hike of 8.6 miles from Access Point 1 to Point 3. 13 October dawned clear and cold. There was frost on the car as we set out on the 90 minute drive from East Aurora to the trailhead just south of the New York – Pennsylvania border. We stopped for coffee in Ellicottville and started our hike with the cold air roaring into our lungs. Don and David were experienced hikers and in great physical shape. My son Nick is 30 years younger than I, with the energy that comes in youth. I, being just 3 years shy of 60, had no idea what to expect or how woefully unprepared I was for that long initial ascent up the trail. From that very first hike through to the end, the trail was very well maintained and blazed. We did not know at that time how much work had been done by Finger Lakes Trail volunteers to keep the trail in such splendid condition!

One of our most adventurous days occurred on 30 March 2013. We were hiking north on Map CT7 from Access Point 8 (near the intersection of Schad Road and Route 354) to Point 4 on map CT8 (just north of Darien Lakes State Park). The day was sunny, but cold (around 32 degrees). There was still a lot of snow on the ground in the wooded areas although there was also considerable mud along the more open areas of the trail. A couple hundred yards south of U.S. 20, the Conservation Trail crosses a small stream which feeds into Eleven Mile Creek. There was a bridge across this stream which is about 10 feet above the stream. This bridge consisted of a piece of metal scaffolding about 2 feet wide and 30 feet long, with no hand rails. As we looked at this bridge in that cold morning air, with ice glistening on the cold aluminum

surface, we paused to question the wisdom of attempting to cross. We realized that we had to be quite close to the highway, and while a fall from the bridge might result in a broken bone, there was small chance it would be fatal. Plus, Don was a nurse and he would know what to do in the event one of us was injured. Lastly, we were about 8 miles from our starting point! Being both the clumsiest and the most expendable I went across first. Once I made it successfully across, Nick, David and Don all had the confidence to follow. We all agreed that “somebody” really should install a safer bridge.

On 27 October 2013, we completed our journey in 21 hikes that took us 54 weeks on the calendar. We were blessed with excellent weather. We cancelled only one hike due to snow! Our last hike was from map CT6 point 3 to point 6, the dreaded Holland ravine section! But by that time we all had our hiking legs and negotiated this difficult hilly area without incident. Hiking over a twelve month period allowed us to observe the seasonal changes and appreciate the variety of natural scenery and trail conditions. We made plans to start hiking the main Finger Lakes Trail the following spring. We made three or four hikes in April and May, but then life got in the way and we did not get back on the trail during 2014. We all figured there would be time in 2015 and beyond to finish off that portion of the trail network.

In June 2015, Don passed away suddenly at age 59. We all lost



This picture was taken on 11 May 2013 on Map CT6 between access points 6 and 7. Nick Bell is on the left of the jeep, Dave Gorczynski is on the right (no cap), while Don G. is wearing the cap.

a wonderful brother, uncle and friend. Don was a truly exceptional person and we wanted to do something to honor his life. We all agreed that Don could be the “somebody” who replaced that bridge. Don loved the trail and he would have enjoyed making it better. I contacted Quinn at the Finger Lakes Trail, and told him that we would pay for all the materials and donate our labor with members of the Foothills Trail Club to build the new bridge.

So on 22 October 2016 on yet another chilly autumn morning Don’s family members, siblings David Gorczynski, Mary Jurek, Diane Bell, nephews Aaron George, Mike Bell and Nick Bell, and brothers-in-law Paul Jurek and Joe Bell met up with club members Dave, Frank, Mike and Don at 8:00 a.m. to begin construction. Not everything went perfectly, but the leaders from the Foothills Trail Club kept us all in good humor as we worked throughout the day. On Sunday morning, we returned to add some finishing touches and completed the bridge by 11:00.

We cannot thank the people from the Finger Lakes Trail enough. They not only allowed us to build this tribute to Don, but they also provided all of the planning and expertise needed to get this project completed. The entire Gorczynski family hopes that this bridge serves future hikers well. We also hope that everyone who chooses to hike the Conservation Trail will find their experience enjoyable. We are thankful for this opportunity to contribute to that experience and leave behind a fitting memorial to our brother, our uncle, our friend Don Gorczynski.

We can hardly wait to volunteer for the next project! 🍁

FEAR NO MORE!

Dave Potzler

Way back on May 1st, Joseph Bell, then of East Aurora and a lifetime member of the FLT, contacted the FLT office to say he and his family wished to donate funds in memory of his recently deceased brother-in-law. Joe explained that he and Don Gorczynski had enjoyed many happy hours along the trail. A lean-to was mentioned, possibly for Darien Lakes State Park, as well as replacing that narrow, scary aluminum bridge on the Michael Fix property South of Broadway (U.S. 20) in the Town of Darien.

Well, I didn’t need to be told twice. I jumped on it. Landowners were contacted and cost estimates calculated. A decision is pending regarding the shelterthis is the state, after all, folks..... but the bridge was quickly approved. Thank you, Michael!

A date was set for late October after I convinced Mike Granger he had to help. I had never tackled anything this large before and I did not relish the picture of me, or anyone else for that matter, lying in the creek bottom under a heavy beam. For those hikers not familiar with this section on Map CT-8 @ A.P. 3, the little drainage is 30 feet wide at the top and 10 feet deep to the boulder strewn shale bottom.

A replacement was desperately needed.



Don resting beside the trail.

Now, it’s one thing to build a little bridge in a shallow stream and something else entirely when a misstep will leave you draped over a big rock. I have a little experience with ropes and so I put up a total of five pulleys. With a robust come-a-long and help from Team Bell we managed to haul the heavy beams into place.



Dave Potzler

The new bridge almost finished, with a mum planted on Sunday morning by the family crew in memory of Don.

We built each beam up using six 16 foot 2 x 8s banged together with plywood spacers for added stiffness. At first I fretted about finding a level spot to build but ended up using the shoulder of Route 20! No troopers stopped us. Incidentally, I figured each 32 foot bottom chord (beam) weighed in at about 275 pounds. I estimate the whole structure at 2200 pounds.

Mike Granger kept me from getting into too much trouble. Ever-dependable Frank Occhiuto and Don Bergman, fellow Foothills members, were indispensable, as usual. And, I can’t say enough about Joseph Bell and his whole family. Super nice folks! They all worked very hard when called upon. Of course, we probably never would have met were it not for Don’s passing . The bridge will serve as a lasting reminder of the generosity of the Bell family and Donald Gorczynski. 🍁

Trail Topics: A Report on the Most Recent Trail Maintainers' Meeting

Paul Warrender, Vice President of Trail Maintenance

A cool, rainy day brought out 28 trail maintainers and adopters to the Trail Maintainers Meeting at the local scout house in Bainbridge, hosted by the Bullthistle Hiking Club's Trails Chairman Tom Bryden. Discussion ranged from "trail standards" and "turn blazing" to "trail maintenance trends" and "tools." A great exchange of experiences, ideas, and resources was had by all.

Lynda Rummel, FLTC Vice President for Trail Quality and Irene Szabo of the Travelin' Training Team exhibited various sawing implements and other hand tools of the trail maintenance trade. They also led discussion on trail maintenance techniques and landowner relations pointers for the trail adopter/maintainer.

Annette Toasperm, a "retired" trail sponsor and environmental educator from the Penn Yan area (trained by Cooperative Extension) gave a fine and informative presentation about invasive species and the effects they have on the trail. Important information about obnoxious and/or dangerous invasive plants such as Poison Ivy, Multi-flora Rose, Garlic Mustard, Giant Hogweed, and Wild Parsnip was given, with lively conversation about what to do with these nasty plants once identified.

Trail Maintainers' Meetings are held twice each fall in different trail regions. The next meeting (which will have happened before this edition goes to print) is November 12 at Virgil Town Hall. The meetings, discussion, and opportunity to meet other maintainers who are eager to help others with challenges are a golden opportunity for all who attend!

Communicating Trail and Mapping Problems


Hiking along the trail, you run into a tree that has recently come down and is blocking the trail tread, sometimes even more than one tree. Another time, you're happily hiking along and the map doesn't note a hunting closure, but someone has posted a sign suggesting there is one. These issues and others impeding a good hike do happen on occasion along Finger Lakes Trail's 1000 mile-long trail system. What to do?



Irene Szabo

Trail sponsors met in Bainbridge in October to keep themselves up to date with practices and policies...and cool tools!

The most important thing to do is to REPORT the problem or question to the right place! Not your friend when you get home. Not your mother-in-law. Not the FLT e-group, many of whom aren't even members, much less have a knowledgeable role in trail management. **REPORT PROBLEMS TO trailreport@fingerlakestrail.org!**

- Describe the problem clearly, especially in terms of location and nature of the problem. Here's a list of things we need to know about:
 - Trees fallen across the trail or in any way impeding the footpath
 - Damage to trail facilities (lean-tos) or structures (punchons, bridges)
 - Trail damaged by severe erosion, debris, or even avalanches of material onto the trail
 - Faded, missing, or indistinguishable blaze markings
 - Missing or damaged signs
 - Illegally discarded debris at trailheads, on the trail, and at campsites
 - Illegal use of the footpath by mountain bikes, ATVs, snowmobiles, and horseback riders, especially in cases where any of these activities are creating damage to the footpath
 - Footpath that has been overgrown with vegetation and tree branches, especially to the point where seeing the trail is nearly impossible.
 - Missing items on maps, such as hunting closures
 - Trails that have been rerouted but not noted on a map
 - Remember to be clear about the issue and consider your descriptive method; a single tree down on the trail is not a "serious trail disaster," nor is a complete loss of trail from erosion a "minor step-over"
- Include Town, County, and name of the public land (state forest?, state park?, Wildlife Management Area?)
- Give us the FLT Map number, and closest map mileage; if you don't have the map, then find the location on the FLTC's interactive website map, zoom into the problem area and click on the nearest  icon, then record that information. This is also important when communicating mapping issues.
 - Access points, distance from road crossings, trail mileage, or GPS coordinates are very helpful to those trying to locate the problem as efficiently as possible.
 - If you're carrying a digital camera or cell phone that can take photos, take a picture or two of the problem; this really helps us a lot!

- Give your best estimate of what is needed to correct the problem; we hate to send a crew with chainsaws only to find a 3" thick tree that could have been handled by one person with a handsaw, often carried in a long way from the trailhead

The important step is to submit your mapping or trail condition reports by e-mail at trailreport@fingerlakestrail.org. If you do not have e-mail, call the FLT Service Center in Mount Morris at (585)658-9320.

Reports sent to trailreport@fingerlakestrail.org are automatically copied to the Trail Management Team, including all Regional Trail Coordinators, as well as the Vice Presidents of Mapping, Trail Quality, Trail Maintenance. When we receive these emails, they are typically reviewed within a day or two, and if you've reported by email, you should receive a response to your notice and may be asked to clarify any information provided.

The trail maintainers and the Trail Management Team are committed to making everyone's experience on the Finger Lakes Trail system as enjoyable as possible, without extraordinary obstacles. In the bad old days, before we had this reporting site, problems might not be discovered by a segment's sponsor for

over a month! Now our track record for reacting to trail problems is exemplary; we can't get to everything "overnight," but we do try to resolve problems as quickly as we can. And remember, trail maintainers and builders are volunteers! Thank them, or better yet join them!

Notice! We need to find a new trail maintainer for a section of trail on map M11, Access Points 5-8. Most of the trail is on road in Steuben County, just outside of Bath. Most of the private land that the trail goes through is owned by one friendly landowner. This might be a good section for a new trail sponsor to learn on.

Contact Regional Trail Coordinator Peter Wybron at prwybron@rochester.rr.com, 585/ 243-5351 

Contact: Paul Warrender
607hikingtrails@gmail.com
401/439-8285

Beautiful trail section up for adoption on Map M6, just west of the Genesee River. See page 35.

Trail Topics: Why I Write and You Should Read the Trail Tenders' News

Lynda Rummel, Vice President of Trail Quality

I am obsessed with building a *sustainable and aesthetically pleasing* Finger Lakes Trail all across New York State. Trail sustainability is part and parcel of preserving the trail as a footpath for generations to come, perhaps even forever, but I suppose that when we think of the words "trail preservation," I suppose we usually think of assuring, through trail easements or agreements with agency partners, that the trail can be on a certain stretch of land for perpetuity (or as close to it as our agency partners will accept). And that is how it should be. Having a trail segment blessed with permanent legal existence or recognized status by an agency is the first and foremost condition we should hope to achieve. But along with this goes the idea of creating a physical trail that will withstand all that Mother Nature and Humankind throw at it, and that will *please* Mother Nature and Humankind at the same time. This is where sustainability and aesthetic sensibility come in.

I've talked before about techniques to create a sustainable foot path. First and foremost, a sustainable trail is built to battle the forces of water. Water is the enemy of a trail, especially a trail that is intended to be built on native soil without being hardened by the addition of materials too heavy or cumbersome or requiring too much labor to be hauled in. Water needs to be routed *off or away from* the trail tread, and there are a variety of techniques to accomplish this that include crowning the tread to shed water to the sides of the trail, creating an out-slope across the tread to run water off the outer edge, adding stepping stones or building a causeway through which water can trickle, suspending puncheon on the surface of the corridor over persistently wet areas, or building boardwalk by which trail users can cross over a deeper wet area, or by ditching the side of the tread to carry water away

or developing Coweeta Dips or a series of smaller outward dips at the outer edge of the tread to collect water in puddles that are then drained away from the trail by dispersal ditches, and so forth.

These techniques leave a trail tread that is not only physically sustainable but is also pleasing to the land owner or land manager because the trail is visibly well and properly built. Everyone can appreciate the work of a skilled stone mason found in a perfectly built dry stone wall or the work of a chainsaw-wielding sculptor found in surprisingly delicate and exact wooden animal statues; a trail built carefully to evident standards engenders the same kind of appreciation. Add to this a well-maintained trail (cleared of clutter and trimmed back) and a trail that is laid out with some sensitivity to the topography of the area, such as would be done by a landscaper, to the extent permitted by agreement with the land owner or land manager, so that, as much as allowed, the trail follows a contour line around a hillside or wends through the trees or follows an old fence line amidst big, tall maples, and the result is a trail that is exceptionally aesthetically pleasing, as well.

My belief is that both physical sustainability and aesthetic layout contribute mightily to the long-term preservation of the trail. And of course, me being me, I try to impose my knowledge of sustainable techniques and my aesthetic standards on whomever, wherever and whenever I can. My standards are not unique, however; in fact, they are captured in (and borrowed from) the NCTA's *North Country National Scenic Trail, a Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance* binder, and the USDA/NFS' *Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook*, especially the 2004 edition. So I don't feel bad about promulgating

the ideas and standards that contribute to physical sustainability and aesthetic delight, as often as I can. I do this three times a year in a newsletter entitled the *Trail Tenders' News*, a title contributed by Irene Szabo, whose meticulous and tender (if not obsessive) care of her sections has been legendary. (There are many other maintainers who, like Irene, try to create a beautiful and sustainable trail, and my hat goes off to them.)

But the NCTA's Handbook is heavy and bulky, and the USF Notebook is about 150 pages long, so to give others the tools and ideas they need to build sustainable and aesthetically pleasing foot trail by themselves is the goal of the *Trail Tenders' News*. This tri-annual, 3.5 page publication is emailed to you if you become an FLT trail sponsor, or you can find it on the FLTC's website at www.fingerlakestrail.org → Members → Volunteers and Trail Workers → Trail Tenders News.

After all, getting people out on the trail, to enjoy the hiking experience and want to perpetuate it, is a primary goal. Having a permanent trail or trail corridor is pre-requisite; but having a sustainable trail that provides an aesthetically pleasing experience encourages everyone to support the trail well into the future. **And you can help.** Even if you are "just a hiker" and would never, ever want to pick up a McLeod or Pulaski, stop by the website three times a year and read the latest issue of the *Trail Tenders' News*. I guarantee that from it, "news-letterly" as it is, you will gain a better appreciation of the trail and those who build and maintain it or allow it to cross their lands, and a much deeper enjoyment of the trail and the natural environment that surrounds it. 🍁

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



Minden Pictures

Puncheons across the taiga in Finland.

Classy Signs in Chenango County

The Bullthistle Club has dressed up several locations with special signage. Larry Chesebro built this trailhead signboard plus asked his cousin, Cheryl Manwarren, to paint a sign showcasing the bullthistle. The handsome sign adorns the top of



the club's new bridge, built during Alley Cat #2 (page 25, Fall 2016 issue of this magazine). This may be our first bridge art!

Photos by Warren Johnsen



Trail Topics: Alley Cats

Mike Granger, Vice President of Crews and Construction

I have to admit that I am experiencing more than a little nostalgia as I think over the past season. As most of you I am sure are aware, this was my first season as VP of Crews & Construction, and I truly enjoyed it. I am very thankful to those who guided me along the way and put up with my barrage of questions.

I cannot say enough about the dedication of our volunteers. Many thanks to Don Sutherland who was on three different Alley Cat crews this season, Mike Ogden who was Construction Manager for two lean-tos, as well as Colleen Townsend and Pete Stapleton, who showed up at the Hoxie Gorge project while Pete was recovering from a nasty case of shingles. They couldn't not be there to help at least a little. Every volunteer's efforts and dedication are greatly appreciated. I think that we accomplished a lot this season and I am proud to have been a part of the crews that made it happen. A great big thank you to all of the volunteers, who are the heart and soul of these projects.

Alley Cat #4 started on August 15, construction of a lean-to in Hoxie Gorge State Forest, map M20 near Interstate 81. Our Project Manager was Mike Tenkate, and Construction Manager was Mike Ogden. We had three Mikes on this project including me. This was a special project because this is the first post and beam lean-to built using plans that Matt Branneman drew up prior to stepping down from his position as VP of Crews and Construction. This is the style that future lean-tos will take, although we plan to make a few tweaks. Thanks to Matt for help on this and for stopping in to make sure that we did it right! And thank you to Steve Catherman, who checked the drawings for architectural integrity and affixed his Engineering stamp on the plans so we could get approval from the DEC to build.

Construction started on Friday morning, and we were able to haul materials in on the FLT's six-wheel ATV that was donated by Bob Emerson in 2015. This saved us a lot of work as it is nearly a mile to the building site from the road. As it was, we still had to carry materials about 200 yards down a steep hill, across a creek, then up a steep embankment. At the end of the day on Friday, most of the materials were on site, the deck was built and the main beams were in place.

Saturday the rafters were set in place, walls were erected, and board and batten siding applied. Sunday the roof was put on and we finished up around noon.



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

Thanks to Chuck and MJ Utech for allowing me to stay with them during the project, and especially to MJ for feeding us so well. I hope to have the opportunity to taste your cooking again sometime.



Jacqui Wensich

Planned projects for the 2017 AC season

I am preparing for two lean-tos and a trail reroute. The first lean-to will go up in Bucktooth State Forest, Map M2 north of Salamanca, planned to start Friday May 19. Accommodations will be at Allegany State Park. Project Manager is Dave Potzler. The second lean-to was brought to my attention by Lynda Rummel and is in Moss Hill State Forest southeast of Bath. On this project we will tear down the old lean-to which has been decimated by powder post beetles. Bill Meehan has agreed to be Project Manager for it. This one is planned for mid-August and may take up to a week. Unfortunately, at the time of submission, a firm date for the trail reroute has not been established, but I can tell you that it is in the Catskill area and will be before the County Hike Series. I will have more information for the next issue.

As you can see, 2017 will be very busy, and we will need plenty of volunteers so please mark your calendars in anticipation. We are always looking to welcome new volunteers; you don't need to be experienced. We will welcome your enthusiasm and willingness to learn, and in return you will take away fond memories and new friends. 🍁

Contact: Mike Granger
mikegra@gmail.com

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.

Trail Topics: If We Had a Million Dollars...

Dave Newman, Vice President of Trail Preservation

FLTC is tight on operating funds, obtained from your dues and annual donations, that pay for this magazine, the phone bills, the staff, etc. Your continued support is really important to help us “keep the lights on” and our program at the planned level. But, rather amazingly, we have accumulated \$640,000 in donations to the Forever Society / Sidote Trail Preservation Fund. There is also another \$360,000 or so in dedicated funds, like the Lean-To fund, and in Endowment, the earnings of which are used to help the operating budget but the principal of which can’t be spent.

So we don’t have a million...yet...but we do have about 2/3 of a million that is specifically targeted for Trail Preservation. The donors who trusted us with this much money didn’t intend for us to stick it in the investment account forever and just spend the earnings; that’s what donations to an Endowment fund are for. Rather, they intended us to do something toward that last word of our Mission Statement... FOREVER.

How are we doing on that “Forever” idea? Well, making progress. With the Levitan easement reported elsewhere in this publication, and our most recent easement from Robert Weigel for access on his property along Fuller Road, off Warner Gulf Road in Erie County’s Town of Holland (thank you to FLTC member Annette Brzezicki for negotiating that with Mr. Weigel) we are up to 92 private parcels protected by easement. Added to the 7 trail parcels that we’ve had donated we’re at 99 parcels where the trail can stay, Forever! That’s pretty good... until you realize that there are some 600 private parcels with no easement where the owners allow the trail for now, but where that can change in the future. Certainly some of these owners will also be in a position to donate the property or grant us an easement some day, but many may not be. We’re ready to talk with any landowner when the time is right for them, and we’ve done easements 92 times now, so the process is pretty smooth.

We should also include “road walks” in our thinking. There are altogether too many miles of them. Sometimes our volunteers work hard and get permission for an off road relocation, but many times the landowners where we need to go can’t be convinced to host the trail.

So the answer is... we do have 2/3 of a million dollars, and we can buy something. Now, such transactions are of necessity a bit hush hush until they happen as we don’t want to cause a price jump. Your Board has been working on one particular property where we hope to put \$250,000 or so to work and gain permanent protection of nearly a mile of trail. Our plan isn’t to “own” the trail, so if we do buy something to protect it we will in most cases try to resell the property, with a permanent trail easement on it. In the example we are working out now, our \$250,000 will thus eventually get freed up to invest in the next protection opportunity. We have another \$400,000 or so in uncommitted funds, and some good ideas of where to apply them to further our “Forever!” goal on key parcels.

This is of course new for FLTC. The first transaction is taking some time to close as we learn how to do such things. I think our donors will be really pleased when they see what we have done with a portion of the Trail Preservation funds and I hope that success will cause others to consider donations or including the FLTC Sidote Trail Preservation fund in their estate plans. It’s a neat legacy... to help ensure the trail can remain open... Forever! I’m sure it is going to take a lot more than a million dollars, but for now our \$640,000 gives us the chance to get going. 🍁



Ed O'Shea

Contact: Dave Newman
danewman@rochester.rr.com
585/582-2725

Gifts in Memory of **WILLIS (BILL) MITCHELL**

from

Debbie & Jeff Blood
Karen & Mark Blazey
Cheshire Academy
Cone Communications, LLC
Skip & Joan Hallenbeck
Hearst Business Media Admin.
John & Bonnie Hood
Frederick Howk
Daniel Lane
Katherine Lane
Annette Master
Mass Mutual Agents Assn.
Stewart & Elaine Manley
George & Gladys Medill
Nathan Pendleton III
Betty & Peter Stahlbrodt
Timothy Warth
Mr. & Mrs. David Whitaker
Gail Wrath

Trail Topics: Mapping Input

Greg Farnham, VP of Mapping and Jo Taylor

All maps are up to date. So far this year, Jo and Greg updated 36 PDF maps and 30 GPX maps. All Trail Conditions notices have been posted, edited and/or deleted as requested by Regional Trail Coordinators or required by map updates.

We recently completed an internal project aimed at simplifying the map maintenance processes and the data storage architecture. This project resulted in a reduction of data storage from 5,833 folders, 17,869 files and 21.8 gigabytes of data to 238 folders, 3,495 files and 9.2 gigabytes. The map maintenance processes were also changed significantly to simplify map maintenance. The new processes and storage architecture are thoroughly documented. The major benefit to the FLTC of this project is to enable future mappers to take over, and to allow us to archive each "source file" as updates are made, so that we can always revert to a previous trail, description, etc.

If you are interested in becoming an FLT mapping volunteer, and in learning the technical computer work involved in doing so, please let us know. Most of the work is done on a PC using the Windows operating system. The FLT provides the licenses necessary for the mapping software. In addition, we use other freely available software, but you will need to have Microsoft Word and Excel as well.

Many people pause hiking during hunting season, which is upon us at this writing. However, map changes seem to spike up a bit as landowners add hunting closures just before the season begins. Many parts of the trail, and everywhere the trail goes on public property, are still open for hiking during hunting seasons. Be sure to dress appropriately and be aware that hunters may be pursuing their hobby nearby where hikers are pursuing ours. You may encounter hunters even on posted property, as landowners can give permission to individuals and groups to hunt on their land. Be

especially aware that our trail is on private property through the generosity of the landowner.

The mapping team's purpose is make sure that our maps accurately reflect the trail as it is blazed on the ground. Many times trails change, or are temporarily closed, or weather and other natural events, logging operations, and other temporary conditions require that hikers be informed of changes rapidly. This is where our Trail Conditions page supports the mapping system, and communicates information required by hikers between map updates. Armed with the most recently published map from our map store and the current Trail Conditions postings, no hiker should ever be surprised by anything that we know about. See sidebar (next page) by webmaster Roger Hopkins: "Are my paper maps and GPX files up to date?"

Many of our Trail Conditions posting come from hikers who encounter new conditions that we are unaware of. They report their findings according to the procedures laid out on our website. Our Trail Regional Trail Coordinators (RTCs) post the necessary change information on the Trail Conditions webpage. In addition, if an RTC determines that a map needs to be updated, either due to a permanent event, or due to a landowner request, the RTC notifies the mapping team, and our processes are executed. This can be a somewhat lengthy process if a new trail needs to be designed, cleared, flagged, GPS'd, blazed and incorporated into the map. During this lengthy, work-intensive process, the Trail Conditions Posting informs hikers of the change, until a new map can be published. We hope this helps you all to stay found! 🍁

Contact: **Greg Farnham**
FLTmapping@outlook.com

New and Returning Members

Richard Brainerd

Lisa Castaneda

Jean Cooley

Jeff & Deanna Darling

Richard Decker

Christine DeSocio Burns

Timothy Domanski

Mark Dunning

Donald Graham

William, Laurie, Brady, Kala Halbert

Jean Hardik

Fairport, NY

Churchville, NY

Jefferson, OR

Webster, NY

Arkport, NY

Bath, NY

Hamburg, NY

Mattydale, NY

Fairport, NY

Keuka Park, NY

Endicott, NY

Cheryl Kreindler

Abby McCarthy

Richard Meyers

Ramona Mills

JC Sawyer

Peter Szabelski

Mary Jean Taylor

John Weyand

Scott Wilkerson

Rudy Zheil

Newport, KY

Rochester, NY

North Collins, NY

Penn Yan, NY

Mount Morris, NY

Auburn, NY

Erie, PA

Hornell, NY

Hemlock, NY

Rochester, MI





Are My Paper Maps, PDF Files, and GPX Files Up To Date?

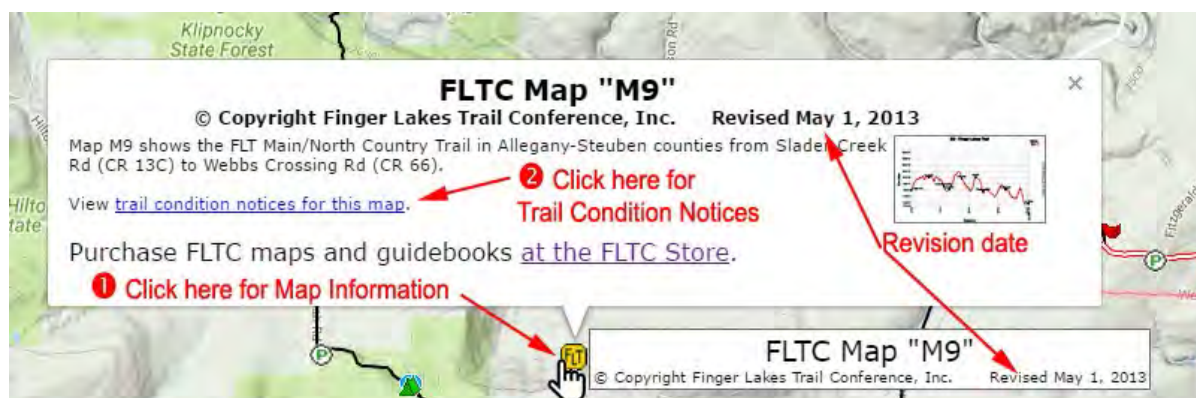
Roger Hopkins




We revise paper maps, PDF files, and GPX files when trail conditions change significantly. When we do, we change the Revision Date of the map. We also apply minor updates to our maps as needed, and for these, we **do not** change the revision date. For all map changes, we post a Map Revision Notice on the Trail Condition Notices page on the website, you can use both the revision date and the Map Revision Notices to decide if you want a fresh copy of a map.

We do not change our maps for temporary conditions such as logging closures, storm damage, or special events, but we do post Trail Condition Notices.




We encourage hikers always to check the Trail Condition Notices page before hiking even if their maps are up to date. Here is a short tutorial:

1. On the interactive map hover over the FLT icons ( or ) to display the revision date. Click on the icon  to see more information about the map. Click on the link  to display the trail condition notices for the map.



2. On the Trail Condition Notices with the sorting option set to “Map,” click on the map name to jump to the trail notices  for that map. Then look in the heading for the map for a description of the map and the latest revision date . Also, check for Map Revision Notices  shaded in pink.

General M1/CT1 M2/CT2 M3/CT3 M4 M5 M6 M7 M8 M9 M10 M11 M12 M13
M14 M15 M16 M17 M18 M19 M20 M21 M22 M23 M24 M25 M26 M27 M28 M29
M30 M31 M32 M33 CT4 CT5 CT6 CT7 CT8 CT9 CT10 CT11 CT12 L1 L2 B1 B2 B3
CH1 CH2 CH3 I1 O1 O2 QCML MFHL Passport West Passport Central Passport East

Map/Date	Count:159	Sort by: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Map <input type="radio"/> Date	View: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Current notices <input type="radio"/> Archived notices
 M9 (Allegany-Steuben counties)	 Revised Oct-31, 2016		
M9 Oct. 31, 16	 Map Revision: A new M09 was published today to reflect a re-route and shortened hunting closure at mile point 9.6. This reroute lengthened the trail by 0.1 miles. Both the PDF and GPX files were changed and the Rev Date was changed to 10/31/2016. - FLT Mapping		
M0	TRAIL REROUTE PENDING! Location: Leaving Bully Hill SE heading east toward		

3. In the On-line map store hover over a map rectangle on the *Select your own paper map set page* or *Maps and GPS Files for Instant Download* page.



We hope that this information will help you keep your maps and understanding of trail conditions up to date for the most satisfying and safe experience on the Finger Lakes Trail.

Willa Powell End-to-End #401

Eight years ago I signed up for the first ever Delaware County Series, then trotted the Bullthistle trails trying to keep up with Jim Loomis' fast group through Chenango County the following year. I hobbled through blisters in Foothills territory with Jake Kern serving as the ultimate sweep on the 50th Anniversary Conservation Trail Series. Now I can say I've hiked everything in between.

I was licked by a cow and slid down a muddy hill on my rear end on the same day.

I stood across a parking lot from a bear then groaned my disappointment when it sauntered off toward Alder Lake. The bear's choice meant I wouldn't be washing up in that same lake any time soon.

I learned about wildflowers from Mary Coffin on the Onondaga Branch and about trees from Ron Abraham on the Crystal Hills Trail. I still have dozens of pictures of mushrooms on my iPad waiting to be identified!

Hiking has been a social activity for me from the beginning, so much so that I signed up for the Tompkins County Series even though I intended to through-hike. I wanted to participate in the end-of-series potluck. And I wanted the patch!

I've made marvelous and hopefully lifelong friends. The 2014 Steuben County Series stands out as a prime example. The boisterous Medium Fast group led by Gail Tremblay included a large contingent of "downstate" women. In the beginning, the group also included two men, Dave Zimmer and Dave Tuttle. Later, other gentlemen joined and were welcomed as "honorary Daves."

In June of that year, the scheduled hike fell on my birthday. At the midway point, at the top of a tortuously long and steep road walk, I was presented with a dozen frosted cupcakes, each sporting a lit candle! Lisa Weismiller had secreted them in her backpack through the entire first half of the hike and there were just enough for everyone in our group. At the end of that same hike, Dave Tuttle had a cooler full of refreshments waiting in the trunk of his car. We enjoyed it so much that Sue Perciasepe volunteered to change her birthday for celebration purposes and we picnicked on the Urbana Town Hall lawn after the July hike.

Dave Zimmer and I began together in Delaware County and we've hiked nearly every county series together in the same group. As the series patches accumulated, I became more anxious about Ulster county and the Eastern Terminus. Dave had some ground to cover there too so we joined forces. We reached the terminus (the FLT junction with the Long Path) together, taking each other's



Don Powell

picture to document the achievement. We also used that time to celebrate and remember the life of our mutual friend, Brian Nagy, who had passed away while climbing a mountain in South America the year before.

Meeting and walking with people who shared my enthusiasm for the outdoors played a key role in keeping me motivated, especially after I began to suffer from plantar fasciitis. The Medium Fast group wasn't so fast anymore as I slowed them down in the later miles of each hike. We were no longer the fastest of the medium groups, but I insist we had the most fun! The energy between Sue, her sister

Jennifer Reidy and me seemed inexhaustible, and so did the laughter. Sue and Jennifer also hiked the Onondaga Branch Trail Series with me last year.

Though friendships played a crucial role in achieving my goal, my final steps of both the main and branch trails were taken alone with logistic support from my immediate family. I suppose that is symbolic. Others can help us along the way, but the achievement is ours and ours alone.

Even so, I was absolutely delighted to stand at the end of the Cataraugus County Series with my camera this year as Dave Zimmer's group stepped to the side of the path so he could be photographed crossing under the balloon arch that denoted the last steps of his End to End journey. We started this adventure in the same season, became friends, and finished in our own way and our own time eight years later. 🍁



Willa's picture of #423 Dave Zimmer finishing under a canopy of balloons.

Joe Daley End-to-End #408

Perhaps the first man to take 40 years to finish his end-to-end, AND he ran it all!

There have been 408 people who have completed all 560-some miles of the Finger Lakes Trail. But I'm probably the first one to run the entire way, though the word "run" was a relative one at times.

I didn't plan it that way. I started running the FLT where it meandered near Ithaca in about 1976 as a way to get some variety from running roads every day. Then, on one of those trail runs in 1981, some friends and I cooked up what became the Triennial Trail Relay from Watkins Glen to Dryden as a way to break up the constant 10K road races that were getting monotonous. Little did we know that the race would start the trail running boom in upstate New York. Over the years I ran the Ed Hart Mother's Day Marathon, the old Tom Bugliosi trail race near Virgil, the new Tom B race on Hammond Hill, the Virgil Mountain Madness run, and every leg of the Triennial (see the Fall edition of the *FLT News*, 2014), all on sections of the FLT. By about 2000 I realized that I had run every portion of the FLT from Watkins Glen to Interstate 81. One of my running buddies suggested that I should try running the whole thing. Why not?

I started consciously doing sections in 2002, mostly when my travels took me near to the trail.

Ironically, since I started running the trails to get off the roads, my first forays into long distance (from Ithaca) running of the trail were on the road sections. On my way to visit my sisters in Poughkeepsie or pick up my son from summer camp I would find a section that was mostly roads (I didn't want to chance spraining an ankle when I was expected somewhere) and do an out-and-back run. Then I started doing the same thing on Sunday long runs over toward Truxton and west of Watkins Glen. At one point I met Joe Dabes, then five time FLT end-to-end and fellow trail runner, on the trail and told him what I was doing. I joked that I was going to count it as TWO end-to-ends when I finished, as I was running in both directions. Joe did not think it was funny.

At some point I realized that if I was going to actually accomplish an end-to-end, I would need help. That is when my sweetheart, Rebecca, came up with the idea of the "run-walk." She dropped me off at the start of a section of trail and drove to the end spot. Sometimes 10 miles by trail meant 50 miles on the back roads to get to the other end. Then she walked towards me until we



Rebecca Daley

met up and she turned around and we jogged back to the car together. This had its flaws, like when she never found the end of the trail, had no cellphone reception and we both wandered down forest roads for 2 hours until we finally met, or the time she found the trail but, after driving winding dirt roads for an hour, she started walking going away from me instead of toward me. I got out to the road, found the car, realized what had happened and had to run an extra 3 miles to catch her.

By 2014 I had slowly done about 250 miles of the trail. It was about that time that I also realized that I wasn't getting any younger and if I wanted to truly "run" the Trail, I needed to get serious. I started doing overnights, running one afternoon, camping, and then running the following morning. That is when I found out that the east and west ends of the trail are, by far, the hardest.

I'm referring to you, section Beech Hill Road to Big Pond Road, which was so steep that I was grabbing every tree and root I could reach going both up and down, and you, Boyce Hill State Forest which was so swampy and overgrown that just slogging through the knee high mud had me at almost a crawl. Getting the kinks out of my muscles on the second day of those trips took some time.

By October 2015, I had only twelve miles to go, but by then the fallen leaves were making the footing dangerous (running rather than walking or hiking can be tough on one's footplant.) So I didn't get those last 12 miles done until now. It is kind of poetic, in a way, since finishing in 2016 made it an even 40 years since I first started running the FLT. 🍁

Gifts in Memory of
DAVID WARNE

from

Jean Aswad
Ross Thorne
Mary Ann Whittemore

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Sunday, February 18, 2017

2017 Howard Beye Winter Hike

Bog Nature Trail Loop, FLT Map B3 Rev. 7/16

Hike Leader

Wendy Stevenson, wstevenson@frontiernet.net, (585) 669-9953

Hike Description

We will hike to Huckleberry Bog on the Bristol Hills Trail and follow the Bog Nature Trail Loop. This is an upland bog located on a plateau west of Keuka Lake in Urbana State Forest, Steuben County. Two routes will be offered, one approaching from the north and one from the south. Both hikes are loop hikes and both ~4.5 miles.

- a) Northern Approach. The trail climbs steadily through a hemlock and oak woods to the top of the plateau, going by the Evangeline Shelter and entering Urbana State Forest before reaching the Bog Nature Trail Loop.
- b) Southern Approach. The hike starts at a higher elevation and directly enters Urbana State Forest. It will be a somewhat slower hike. Hikers will follow the Bog Nature Trail Loop and along the way stop at the observation deck to see how the bog looks in mid-winter.

A Bog Nature Trail Guide can be downloaded from the FLTC website.

The Huckleberry Bog Nature Trail is Hike #6 in the FLT Passport book for the Central Portion. Bring your book and a pencil if you would like to take a rubbing.

Bring water and a lunch that can be eaten on the trail. Snowshoes may be needed if the snow is deep.

Meeting time

9:30am. Car pools will leave for the hike at 9:45am.

Location

Meet at Heron Hill Winery, 9301 County Route 76, Hammondsport, NY 14840 in the upper parking lot.

The parking at the trailhead is very limited, so we will leave the majority of the cars at Heron Hill.

The Heron Hill winery will be open from 10-5. There will not be restrooms at the winery available for us to use prior to the hike.

Directions to Meeting Location

From the Village of Hammondsport go north on Main St/NY-54A toward Pulteney St. Turn right onto Pulteney St/NY-54A and go .33 miles. Turn slight left onto Pulteney St/County Hwy- 76 and go 2.99 miles. Follow signs and turn left onto the Heron Hill Winery driveway. Park in the upper parking lot. Enjoy the view of Keuka Lake.

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, April 29, 2016

2017 Wally Wood Hike

International Loop, Map M19

On Saturday, April 29th, we will do the International Loop on Map M19 (Swedish Loop + Spanish Loop) for a 7.2 mile hike. There will also be a longer hike which will probably add another 3 or 4 miles. These loops have been built by and are continuously tended by the couple who may just be our best trail caretakers ever, Michele and Alex Gonzalez. Laurie Ondrejka and Deb Nero will be leading these hikes. Details in the next issue of this magazine.

OFFICE NEWS

The FLTC office hours have changed for the winter. We are now open 9 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday.

Remember to notify us to change your address if you are going away for the winter months and when you return.

Membership Rocker Patches - Do you need your rocker patch if you are a 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50 or Life member? Please contact the office to receive your patch today. 585-658-9320

Remember to check the website for trail information.

Debbie (debbieh@fingerlakestrail.org)

TIM WILBUR REPORT ON ONTARIO PATHWAY'S GREAT PUMPKIN WALK

We set a new record for attendance at our Great Pumpkin Walk on October 15th. We figure 2,200 people. Unbelievably favorable weather, I was in shirt sleeves directing traffic (with a safety orange reflective vest on, of course). Haven't heard the final count on carved pumpkins but I know it was over 900, maybe a thousand, as we also had a record number of individual donations. This is becoming quite the community event with several new organizations carving for us plus individual family and friends carving parties which greatly added to our totals.

Ontario Pathway's founder Betsy Russell was quite impressed with the *FLT News* coverage in our last issue. It likely drew in a few more people. Thanks.

**Gift in Honor of
JOEL MABIE**

from
Elana Bodow

**Gift On Behalf of
GARY BROUSE**
who car spotted me

from
Michael Maue

My End-to-End Journey 2008 - 2016

David Fish, #418

My friend Joyce had been hiking the FLT cross county series for several years and asked if I would care to join her in that endeavor. Her persistence paid off in 2008 for Cattaraugus County.

Training was done prior to the first hike. We all met outside of Franklinville and boarded the bus. I am familiar with that area, so when the bus kept traveling, I started to get a little nervous, and then we finally got to the county line! Confidence was not high; however, we did the hike and had a good time.

There was really no desire on my part to complete the entire trail. It was fun except for the road walks and I started to meet some nice people. Seeing people getting awards at the picnic was a little motivating. There was NO concept on my part of what it took to get an E2E award.

We started Delaware County in 2009, but Joyce had an accident that took her out of the series that year so it was skipped.

We started Chenango County in 2010. People sometimes ask what is your most memorable experience on the trail? You may not want to read this paragraph, but it was watching a fellow hiker die on the trail in front of me. It got my undivided attention, changed my life and made me realize that my time on the planet is finite. It made me appreciate more than ever the friends I have met over the years, sunshine, the beer I am drinking and basically life in general.

Cortland, Tompkins, Schuyler Counties were completed with the help of several people, most notably Shirley and Jackson Thomas. (You may not have actually seen Jackson (Jet) as he usually has a camera in front of his face). This couple was the primary reason for my continuing the county hike series.

At last came the Steuben County: no more getting up at 4AM and driving two hours. Jackson had been needling me to step up and lead a group. After his relentless badgering, I capitulated. I have never considered myself a leader and frankly did not want the responsibility. However, this task was taken seriously, and honestly it was a great experience.

By Allegany County, my friend Mark Field was looking to do the east end of the trail. By this time an E2E is looking like it could happen! We decided on a couple of long weekends to get the eastern terminus (Ulster County) and parts of Delaware County done. People came and went in our group. On M32 Balsam Lake Mt. we had a tough climb; however, we made it to the fire tower. Personally I'm kind of indifferent about changing the itinerary but it was a beautiful, cloudless day. We were rewarded with unlimited visibility. A guide from NYC had a group he was leading and he said he had climbed this fire tower trail over twenty times and never had such a perfect view. We were blessed.

On May 30, we had ten people. It was going to be a fairly long hike of twelve to thirteen miles. It would have been if we didn't zig when we should have zagged. If the Pelnor Hollow Trail is on the branch trail list, we would have it done. Thanks to the guys working on the power lines who gave us a ride in back of their pickup to our vehicles. Note to self: when a guy with the altimeter questions the altitude pay attention, pay attention!!

June 25, 2016, we finished Delaware County on a long weekend. We saw a huge bear as we were driving up to Finch Hollow Road. Wow! I enjoy trains and noticed the trail spent some time on the NYO&W road bed. (New York Ontario and Western) I was really looking forward to this section of the trail and it did not disappoint. M28 showed an old rock cut for the right of way. I was very anxious to get to it; however, it was a much higher elevation than I expected. It was spectacular!! It was moss covered with minimal sunlight. It was a great way for me to wind down the trail, figuratively speaking.

One Sunday we approached a landowner working on his field. Sometimes I get a little apprehensive as I don't know what to expect. The man was happy to see us out enjoying the day. He also informed us that he was planning to build a lean-to on this property along the trail for hiker use. We chatted a bit longer; he said as long as folks leave his property in as good or better shape (picking up litter on the trail), access would be available. At the end of the day or trail as it may be, I feel the private property owner who allows us access needs to be THANKED most of all. Thank you, private property owners!!

July 10, 2016 I actually finished the trail on a short section along the Allegany –Cattaraugus county line from Williams Road, about a mile. The E2E journey ended as it began at the Cattaraugus County Line. No fanfare or celebration; just one foot in front of the other. My camera did not work so no selfies. After reflecting on this I decided that not having an image of me completing the trail was not a bad thing. I realized how much fun it was ... except for that really steep part.

Hopefully you have found this article inspiring or a least amusing. Go out and enjoy the trail!! 

Twisted Branch 100 Kilometer Run

Irene Szabo

Last year we had a nice report on this long run that starts at the north end of the Bristol Hills Trail and ends up on the Main Trail on Map M12 in Hammondsport, when the run was successful and many runners completed their desired mileage. This year, however, it took place on one of those blasted hot and humid days in August, and it was obvious by even the mid-points that way fewer runners would finish at all, and that times for those who did would be dramatically longer. We have asked for a statistical report but as of this writing we have no report. So we'll just have to extrapolate from what our kind support volunteers saw.

Donna Noteware tended an aid station at Glen Brook Road on Map B3:

"Steve Catherman and Pete Nye had the early shift at Aid Station #8 on Glen Brook Road noon to 3:30; I had the second shift 3:30 to about 6:30. My helpers were my daughter Jennifer Guzylak and my granddaughters, Alexis, age 12 and Emma, 8. I also went to the finish line in Hammondsport on Keuka Lake and helped with the food, 9 to 11 pm.

I'm moving in 'slow mo' today!"

Your editor visited the next aid station at Lake David on Map B3 for several hours, say, noon to three. While the location is next to a lake, runners are not allowed to leave the trail to get into water; their rules but logical in consideration of liability.

Hours later than we expected the leaders to show up, the first few came in, men who were incredibly lean, ate almost nothing of all the food offered, and appeared fairly driven toward their goal, despite the horrid heat. Nobody looked like he was having genuine fun, and one man just sat there, not talking, rocking slightly, and waiting until his body caught up. Looked like torture and self-flagellation to me, and this was only the middle! Meanwhile race volunteers had brought all sorts of easy to grab food items and drinks for the expected runners.

Donna reported again:

"We had runners steadily between 3:30 and 6. Some could barely move and were exhausted. They rested, some became DNF's (Did Not Finish) and then left in cars. There were a lot of support people. When we arrived there must have been about 20 cars parked along the side of Glen Brook Road! They were all polite and thankful that we were there. We closed the Aid Station down because they had all been there by 6:15 p.m. or else they weren't coming.

I saw the real exhaustion between 9:30 and 11 at the finish line at Champlin Beach down in Hammondsport at the lake."

It was a cruel summer on many fronts. 🍁

Two of the first men to arrive at Lake David, well over an hour later than expected with about half of the run remaining. Remember that they have to climb Mt. Washington yet! (Map M12)



Tim Wilbur

This is the aid station run by the Victor Hiking Trails at access Point 5 on Map B1, right before runners start uphill into Hi Tor. From left to right, Suzy Paquin, Larry Fisher, Carrie Fisher and Lisa Roberts.

Near the beginning of the race in Naples



Tim Wilbur



Irene Szabo



Irene Szabo

Mark Field End-to-ENDER #424

My trip on the Finger Lakes Trail started by accident. I was leading my Venture Patrol from Boy Scout Troop 715 in Fulton on a day hike in Morgan Hill State Forest in April 2008. There we happened on an FLT road sign. Having never heard of the FLT, my on-line research brought me to a Boy Scout's dream. Over the next two years 8-10 scouts and 3-4 leaders made several day trips and weekend backpacking trips on the FLT on maps M19 through 25.

The high point of our hiking was a fifty-four mile backpacking trek from Lincklaen Map 22 south and west to Oxford Map 25. We hiked five days with a stop at Bowman Lake State Park for a needed shower. We got a late start the next day because the guys insisted we wait for the snack bar to open so they could have one more milkshake for the road. The last night on the trail brought us to what I think is the most beautiful place on the FLT, the Ludlow Creek lean-to. This shelter was in perfect shape and is in the most scenic location, overlooking a cascading stream. My Scouts very much enjoyed our last night out by chasing minnows and crayfish, while the leaders relaxed in this beautiful spot. Thank you to my "Big Dogs" for the wonderful memories and to my fellow leaders Doug, Deana and Chris for all the support.

After my son obtained his Eagle Scout badge and aged out of Scouts I was still interested in hiking the FLT but he said he had "walked far enough." With help from my wife and my brother I hiked a few times in Cortland County but I knew it would take forever at the rate I was going. Then in another happy accident, while searching the FLT website for trail conditions, I found the sign-up for the county series. How perfect. I figured maybe 20 -30 people hiking together, how great is that? I never dreamed there would be over 125 hikers. I had seen only three other hikers in all the trips with Scouts. Thank you Jet, Shirley, Marty, Donna and Mike for all the hard work you put into organizing this for everybody. I know how hard it was to plan outings for just 10 scouts. Organizing for 125 hikers with greatly varying speeds has to be very difficult, and I greatly appreciate it.

I started the county series in Schuyler and continued thru Cattaraugus. Meanwhile, I wanted to finish the eastern part of the trail. With more help from my wife and brother I was able to finish Tompkins and Chenango Counties hiking alone. It is so peaceful in the woods with nothing but trees and wildlife. I started Delaware County with a backpacking trip. I hadn't been out in the woods at night for a while and was looking forward to the peace and quiet. The site I chose was the Cold Spring lean-to on



Phil Field

map 27, which is just up the hill from State Route 8 where the tractor trailers use their jake brakes all night long to slow down when going downhill to Masonville. So much for the quiet I expected.

I was doing a make-up hike alone on map M15 near Roger's Hill lean-to when I walked into the strangest thing that I encountered on the FLT. As I went north past the lean-to, then east thru the landowner's barnyard, there in the field was a World War II campsite. There were 15-20 guys dressed as American GIs and Nazi soldiers. They were sitting around campfires drinking coffee and shooting the breeze. They had old Jeeps and canvas tents set up in rows. They were friendly and talkative. They told me about the weekend and how I had missed the big show the day before. I was just happy

they were done with target practice.

July 4th weekend 2014 Dave Fish #418, Dave Newlun #314 & #378 and I hiked the Eastern Terminus. It wasn't easy but well worth it. The ranger for the Balsam Lake Mt. fire tower was there for the weekend. He gave us the tour and showed us how the fire tower system used to work. I found this to be the most impressive view on the FLT. Alder Lake was so very nice and I look forward to camping there with my family. I stopped for dinner at the restaurant in Claryville on map 33 to try the Borscht, which was highly recommended by Dave Newlun but I missed out. Maybe next time!

Dave Fish and I finished Delaware County in 2015 and 2016 on several day hikes with many different people. It all went smoothly except for the one slight detour. Remember to trust the altimeter and if you see the Pelnor Hollow lean-to, turn around! Thank you to the unknown construction worker with the pickup truck who gave us a ride back to our cars.

The recent changes that allow the FLT to pass thru the NYC Water Authority are much better than the old road walk although the Rock Rift fire tower was a bit disappointing. What is a fire tower without a view? The big black bear Jane, Dave and I saw from the car was the first I had seen since I was a Boy Scout at camp in the Adirondacks. Too bad we weren't a few minutes earlier; we could have hiked right past him. The railroad cut through the hill along the reservoir on map M28 is amazing. How they managed to do that so many years ago is a wonder. Delaware County is definitely my favorite part of the FLT.

continued on page 33



Answers to the Fall “Name That Map!” Quiz

So, you hiked the FLT or parts of it. Let's see how observant you were!
Send your guess to: Jacqui at jwensich@rochester.rr.com

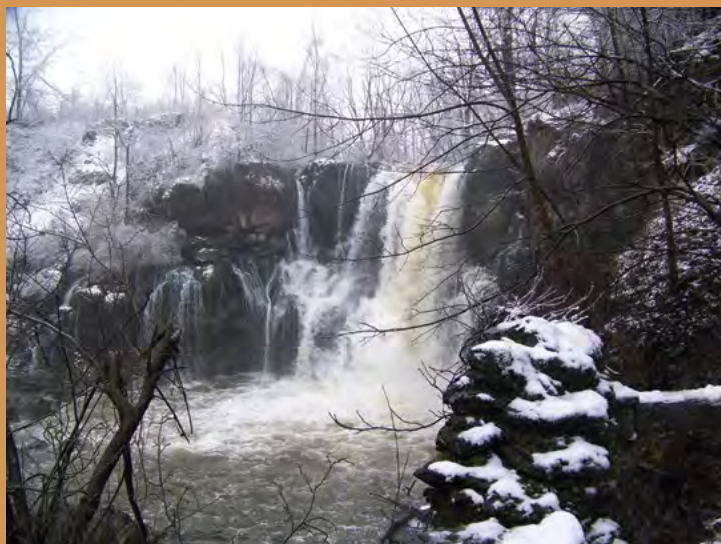
Previous Picture:



Jacqui Wensich

Only Don Sutherland identified the spot on Map M32, way near the east end of our trail, on the way up to Balsalm Lake Mountain fire tower, near the 3500 foot marker.

New Picture:



Jacqui Wensich

Thank you very much to all the trail maintainers. What a great job you do. Thank you to all the private landowners who allow FLT to pass through. I have some hunting land up north that has a local snowmobile trail on it, so I know how hard it is to let strangers enjoy what you have worked so hard for. We couldn't have the trail without you.

Thanks to my wife Lynne and my brother Jim for all the rides to stupid out of the way places on rutted up dirt roads. Thanks to Dave Newlun for his advice. It's good to have someone who has been there before. Thanks especially to Dave Fish, a great hiking companion who listened to all my stories.

Next year I think I will start on the branch trails then maybe the Catskill 35. When I think of hiking this beautiful state I remember something my mother always said to me when I was a kid. "Go outside." I think she just wanted me out of her way but it worked. 🍁

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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<input type="checkbox"/> I'm enclosing a check for \$23 payable to NCTA <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my credit card (MasterCard, Visa or AmEx only) Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Name as it appears on card: _____ Signature: _____	

FLTC Chainsaw Safety Training

Marty Howden

Several times a year we get reports of trees blocking the trail. Some are in piles all twisted together and others fall blocking the trail making it hard to stay on the trail. Is it me or do the trees with the blaze fall with more regularity than those without? Fortunately we have around 50 trained and certified sawyers who are happy to lend a hand or a chainsaw to clear the trail. To request help, please contact the Regional Trail Coordinator for your area or give me a call. We do NOT want untrained sawyers tackling such dangerous messes.

Even with fifty certified chainsaw operators we still need to recruit new sawyers every year. We have scheduled two weekends in 2017 for our chainsaw training: April 29 & 30 and May 20 & 21. The training consists of two days of hands-on training that covers chainsaw safety, maintenance, and the different techniques that will keep our chainsaw operators out of trouble. Those taking the class will need to have the following UL approved personal protective equipment: chainsaw chaps, logging helmet, hearing and eye protection. We have a supply of helmets that have the eye and hearing protection built in that we will issue to those who need them. We may also have chaps available for the first time students. Another requirement is having current certifications in CPR/First Aid. Often reimbursement is available for this training and there are on-line courses available.

What to expect from the class?

We are very lucky to have Bill Lindloff of the Game of Logging as our instructor. Bill covers a lot of material, but the class moves along and he will answer all your questions and by the time the class is done you will have the skills necessary to perform safely the sort of chainsaw tasks that we use as trail maintainers.

I would encourage everyone to consider this training. Worried that a chainsaw is too heavy or too hard to start? There are several chainsaws on the market that are light weight and easy to start. The Stihl 250C has what is referred to as the EZ start. Pat Monahan and I both own this saw and anyone can start this model. There is also an electric model that surprised us all when one of our new sawyers used it two years ago. He used it on his practice block, felled a standing tree, and performed the other cuts with this saw over the two days of class. Light weight and no emissions!

Those groups like ADK-Onondaga who have switched to using two-person cross-cut saws, which always start and never run out of gas, also need to take this sawyer training: no matter the speed of your saw blade, every downed tree needs to be dealt with intelligently and safely.

The classes are limited to ten students per class and they fill up quickly. I do tend to give preference to our existing sawyers, but I have found that there are usually enough spaces available to accommodate almost everyone. If you have any questions please email me at: howser51@yahoo.com or call 585-567-8589. Thanks to all of our present and past sawyers. 🍁



Marty Howden

Bill Lindloff teacher, and Peter Gordon, Pat Monahan Joe Borer, Deb Borer, John (Jack) Wallenhorst, Tom Wallenhorst, Scott Sellers, Dick Swank, Peter Marks, and Gary Mallow were in this class. Nine of the ten were re-certifiers (required every three years) with Peter Gordon a first timer who was recruited by Pat.

Chainsaw Camp

Gary Mallow, participant

About 40 members of the Cayuga Trails Club have made the commitment to maintain a section of Finger Lakes Trail or Cayuga Trail in our area. Only a few have gone the extra step to become Certified Sawyers, a requirement to work with chainsaws in state forests, and an FLT rule for trail on private land, too.

A sawyer agrees to respond when called out on serious blow-downs or downed trees that are too big or too dangerous for a handsaw. In order to work in state forests, sawyers must complete "The Game of Logging," a two-day, hands-on course every three years sponsored by the Finger Lakes Trail, and taught by Bill


continued on the next page...

Lindloff. Bill is a logger with decades of experience in the woods, whose full time job is now training sawyers all over the east. Cayuga Trails Club members Peter Marks and Gary Mallow renewed their certification with Bill September 17th and 18th at Birdseye Hollow State Forest near Bath.

Training days are long, the course is rigorous, and the focus is on safety. It's tough to perform correctly every step of the process of felling a standing tree, or bucking and limbing a downed tree, in front of 10 or 12 of your peers. Every mistake is noted and corrected, and mistakes are sometimes embarrassing. It's a learning process that the sawyers are unlikely to forget.

Training includes segments on saw maintenance and repair, safety equipment, identifying hazards, creating and working your plan, and getting out of potential trouble. The lessons learned from many, many mistakes that have injured sawyers, or even cost them their lives, are passed along, so that we may learn from their mistakes. Safety is emphasized at all times, and sawyers who seem to lose interest or take short cuts are called out. Grades are given to every trainee for every cut. Lindloff is a great teacher who knows what he's doing in the woods. He is committed to passing it along to those of us who want to use these powerful, but potentially dangerous machines, to create safer hiking trail.

At the end of a long weekend, receiving your Game of Logging Certificate is a proud moment. It's also a reminder that working with chainsaws in the woods requires careful planning, recognition of potential hazards, a focus on safety, and at least the rudiments of machine maintenance. The Finger Lakes Trail Conference picks up the tab for the training and provides some safety equipment, such as head, ear, and eye protection, and chaps. Sawyers provide their own transportation, room and board.

CTC's certified sawyers are Paul Warrender, David Priester, Peter Marks, Nigel Dyson-Hudson, Chris Olney, Kenny Fellers, and Gary Mallow. In addition to making themselves available to be called out to our 100 miles of trail, our sawyers agree to travel to other parts of the state when the need arises. We did that last year in the Greek Peak area. 



▲ Bizarre flatbed trailer snowmobile bridge, which IS anchored by steel cable against floods.

► A glimpse into the beautiful woods that this section offers, just in from the entrance from Buffalo Rd.

*Photos and
Text by
Irene Szabo*



Map M6 – Section Up for Adoption!

Please rescue this otherwise attractive piece of trail from its current lack of care. It had belonged to Mike Granger, who not only moved out of the area but also took on the volunteer job of organizing our Alley Cat crews, so it hasn't been tended in the last year at least.

From west to east, at the west end it comes off Marty Howden's section in Swift Hill State Forest through the fascinating Buffalo and Susquehanna railbed section, then down to cross the ever-problematic Sixtown Creek on the funkiest yet snowmobile trail bridge. We hold our collective breaths to see how long it lasts through the creek's legendary flood tantrums.

Mike's old section begins by walking down Higgins Creek Rd., a very quiet country road past farms, both Amish and "English," and then turns up a private lane. The road and turns are well-marked. A steep climb up to a farm field edge takes us to Stickles, a side road north off Higgins Creek Rd. Then the trail turns east along the edge of private property that includes a well-marked fenced pasture and a tree farm, changing into a big woods trail beyond. Quickly two blue spur trails take us first to a campsite that was donated to the FLT, and then to a giant old black cherry tree, possibly the largest I have ever seen. It would take at least three long-armed people to reach around it! Considering its lumber value, it's a treat that the landowner has kept it intact. This is definitely a side trail that is worth a little additional walk of a tenth of a mile each way! These blue spurs are part of the section's responsibilities.

The fairly new puncheon over intermittent damp spots in this area deserves to have its wet leaves swept off in the fall, and a few shingles nailed down to reduce the slipperiness, or perhaps even wire mesh. Beyond there is a stretch of amazingly handsome woods, much of it very old growth of oak, hemlock, black cherry, with the occasional giant white pine. For a nearly continuous two miles we are graced with great private forest, a real rarity in countryside otherwise dedicated to farming.

So even though a long road walk on Buffalo Rd. follows, this two-mile stretch could become a jewel in our trail system, especially with improvements to the tread and the routing. For the prospective trail adopter, this section deserves your care and attention, and it will reward you with potentially fabulous trail. The segment is listed as going from Access Points 2 to 3, 4.6 miles plus the two blue spurs, but a lot of it is road walk.

Are you ambitious? Are you willing to learn trail care? Would you like to be part of an FLT project to make this a demonstration trail-building workshop? Contact Regional Coordinator Marty Howden at howser51@yahoo.com or 585/567-8589.

2017 COUNTY HIKE SERIES

Donna Coon

We have added Ulster County to the County Hike Series!

The 2017 county hike series will cover Ulster County and part of Delaware County. The series will consist of five hikes covering fifty-five miles in the rugged Catskill Mountains. Four maps, M30 through M33, will be covered. Dates for the hikes are the third Saturday of each month May through September. We will start in May because there is often snow on the trails in April and access points are not accessible. Parking is at a premium at trailheads so we will need to be innovative. Optimally those hiking in the same speed group will carpool to the bus pickup point /endpoint with no fewer than four people in a car. Be prepared for rugged terrain, significant elevation changes, and few bail out spots. Sign up will start after the first of the year.

Dates are: May 20th, June 17th, July 15th, August 19th, and September 16th

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NEW FLT KIOSK ON THE CANNONSVILLE RESERVOIR

Rick Roberts

Six years ago, there existed a 16 mile road walk on FLT Map M28. For 50 years, the NYC DEP, controlling access to the Cannonsville Reservoir, refused to allow the FLT to cross their lands. That all changed in 2008, when due to local public outcry at the DEP's purchase of vast amounts of additional acreage throughout the Catskill region, the DEP changed its policy and opened the majority of its land to the public for fishing, hunting trapping and hiking. New blue signs began to appear, marking DEP property, replacing the yellow DEP posted, by permit only, signs. The new signs state that the parcel was now essentially open to the public for recreation purposes without a permit.

The next year, in 2009, the FLT began negotiations with the DEP for trail construction on lands surrounding the Cannonsville reservoir and in 2010 the first section of that reroute was completed. Two years later, with the completion of the trail to the Rock Rift fire tower, the 16 mile road walk was completely eliminated, replaced by nearly 22 miles of beautiful Catskill terrain, including a 12 mile rail trail using the more than 150 year old O & W rail bed, abandoned in 1957.

Now, thanks to the engineering students at SUNY Delhi and their professor, Jared Yando, the FLT has a new informational kiosk located on the north side of the Rte. 268 bridge over the reservoir at its intersection with NYS Rte. 10. The kiosk was built by the

students and erected by the Downsville DEP maintenance crew headed by Stacey Mattson. It contains FLTC information, local hiking maps and history of both the fire tower and the O & W railroad.

In an area where the FLT has received little attention, this kiosk and the accompanying brochures have drawn many hikers to the Cannonsville FLT section and will prove to be a great local asset to the FLTC. Also, I have talked to the NY Department of Transportation (DOT) in Binghamton about installing hiker crossing signs at six places on routes 10, 268, 206, and 30. I met with their engineer to do the measurements, so we hope that by next spring we will have those signs installed. 🍁



Rick Roberts

DEPARTURES

Helen Jarvis, Rochester, 1920-2016

Recently predeceased by her husband Gordon, who provided the FLTC with their first database, Helen was long active in tending trail as part of the Genesee Valley Hiking Club. As an early rare woman with a Masters degree in organic chemistry, she worked at Kodak. Besides trail work, she enjoyed working at a loom at her home. Thanks to Larry Newman for the news.

Fred Yahn, Watkins Glen, died in 2016 from a stroke at age 70. Fred was President of the FLTC Board of Managers from 1985-87, then became editor of the *FLT News* from 1988 to 1992. He worked for several local newspapers. There was a notice in the Spring 1992 edition that the couple who had been typing and laying out our newsletter was giving up that job, so there was a desperate plea for somebody to do desktop publishing for us. With little fanfare, Tom Reimers taught himself desktop publishing and became our next editor for ten years.

Fred also was part of a small group of local birdwatchers and hikers who started what has now become the Queen Catharine Trail. Thanks to Tom Reimers for the notice.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2017 WALLY WOOD AWARD

The Finger Lakes Trail accords its highest honor to one person or pair of people who have contributed to the trail as a whole well above the norm for a long period of time, whether as trail workers, administrative volunteers, hike leaders, event organizers, advocacy volunteers, or outreach specialists, and that award is named for our founder, Wallace Wood. The FLT Recognitions Committee (Mary Zuk Domanski, Steph Spittal, Ron Navik, Donna Coon, and Chair Irene Szabo) solicits members' nominations as soon as possible in order that we might bestow this award at the spring weekend.

Please help us honor a special deserving volunteer. Send written nominations with explanation for your choice to Irene Szabo, treeweenie@aol.com, 6939 Creek Rd., Mt. Morris, N.Y. 14510. Deadline 31 December 2016.

Thank You

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Scenic Trail

NEW BOARD MEMBER AND OFFICER

Anna Keeton of Ithaca has been appointed to replace David Priester. She can be reached at annak@twcnynyrr.com 607/351-3466.

Anna Keeton: Lifetime Hiking Enthusiast

Growing up in Colorado and Wyoming, some of my fondest early memories are of my older relatives taking me on hikes with them as they scouted out their deer and elk hunting areas. While living in Oregon for nine years, I became more familiar with hiking on marked trails and old logging roads, how to navigate by myself off-trail, and how to take my younger siblings on hikes.

I have lived in Ithaca since 2003, after moving here from Oregon with my now-husband "Bodhi" Michael Rogers. We both became FLT Main Trail End-to-enders in 2015, are working on the Branch Trails, and are Lifetime members of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference and Ithaca's Cayuga Trails Club. I served on the Cayuga Trails Club Board as an "At Large" Member and as the Newsletter Editor. I enjoy talking with people of all ages about hiking opportunities, experiences, and gear, as well as guiding them on how to find hiking activities through the Finger Lakes Trail Conference and hiking clubs.

My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology with emphasis in Archaeology from Oregon State University, and Foundations in Financial Planning for Registered Paraplanner from the College for Financial Planning. I am employed part-time as a photographer of cuneiform tablets through Cornell University, have my own sewing business, am a member of Mirage Belly Dance Troupe of Ithaca, and enjoying reading biographies and autobiographies.

Linda Hopkins of Mt. Morris has been appointed as our new Treasurer; lhop1959@yahoo.com (585) 278-7456

I have been an accountant for almost 40 years in many different businesses. I served in the USMC for over 3 years, early 80s, and was blessed to have travelled through, and lived in, many parts of the USA.

I went to college at Empire State College and have a BS in Business Administration with a minor in Accounting.

I currently am a Staff Associate in the Tax Department at Freed Maxick, CPA's PC, in Batavia. My focus is mainly agricultural entities.

I am married and reside in Mount Morris. I have a blended family and 4 beautiful grandchildren, several grand dogs, and a wonderful husband.



Wegmans Gift Card Drawing Winner

Katy Carrier

Each year we draw one name from among those who sent in their "Passports" with proof of hikes done. Everybody who does some of the hikes gets a coupon from Wegmans Markets, while this one person receives a bigger gift card. Katy Carrier worked on the Western Passport. A summary of her hikes follows.

2016 – A great year for hiking! Late winter brought thoughts of the upcoming hiking season. With my friend and hiking partner, Lynda, we decided on the FLT. The FLT provides many miles of hiking and the Wegmans Passport Series adds to the fun. These trails are in our backyard (western N.Y.) and provide variety of terrain, great scenery and history. We didn't do the sections in order due to some closures during hunting seasons.

With Lynda and my golden retriever "Karma" at the ready the adventures began. April found us starting in the Ellicottville area, Holimont to Rt. 240 in two separate hikes. Views of the ski slopes, still with snow and steep terrain, got us excited for more. Cool temperatures to start, mostly in the 40 degree range but with April 17th ending in 75 degrees!

Next was the Bush Hill area and the CCC cistern. Many years of silt, leaves and debris left a deep muck that only a golden retriever could enjoy. We always say, "If you don't get muddy, you didn't have a good time." We met other hikers, all commenting on Karma's "good time" and all were enjoying the day.

Then we tried Allegany State Park, the northern eleven miles. Great trails and we enjoyed seeing the wild leeks poking through the soil. The woods are beautiful and the terrain makes you feel like you earned your mileage.

May began with Boyce Hill State Forest and Cobbs Hill, then June brought hot temperatures and a 7:30 am start from Little Rock City to Holimont. The giant rock formations and the recovering tornado site made an interesting area to explore. Another hot day followed for Swift Hill State Forest. A big storm went through causing a lot of blowdown, for our longest day of fourteen miles and very hot.

September brought cooler temperatures



Katy Carrier

Karma after being almost stuck in the cistern.

and us back to Allegany State Park's southern end. October and the threat of rain took us to Bear Creek. Except for the crowing of a rooster at the northern end it was very quiet and beautiful. Back to the cars and still no rain so we checked out the trail to Jackson Rd. It was nice to be off the road. We enjoyed the bridges and cookout area. A lot of work went into this spot. Heading back to the car the rain started. Good timing and a great hike. Next we hiked the Pat McGee Trail re-route over to the 4th St. Extension. Once off the Pat McGee trail there were a lot of up and down hills.

A great hiking season, averaging around 8 miles/hike and over 100 miles total. I can't give enough credit to the volunteers who make and maintain these trails – a tremendous job. 🍁

FLT MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Make check payable to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference
Mail to 6111 Visitor Center Rd., Mt. Morris, NY 14510 along with this form.
Annual dues (Membership year runs from April 1 to March 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		

Finger Lakes Trail 2016 Calendar of Events

February 1 Deadline, *FLT News*
 February 18 Howard Beye Hike (pg. 29)
 March 4 Board of Managers Meeting, Mt. Morris
 April 29 Wally Wood Hike (pg. 29)
 May 1 Deadline, *FLT News*
 May 13 Board of Managers Meeting, Heritage Village, Corning
 June 9-11 FLT Spring Weekend, Triple Cities Community College, Dryden
 June 24 Trail Race, Letchworth
 July 29 Sidote Hike, Peg Fuller, peg379@gmail.com

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Another view of the Genesee River from the high bluffs where the trail walks the edge on Map M7. Michelle Johnson

