

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Fall 2017



Inside...

- * *National Trails Day Across The State*
- * *A Tornado in Western New York*
- * *New Shelter in Bucktooth State Forest*



FINGER LAKES TRAIL NEWS

Volume 56 Number 3

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

Editor

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

Graphic Design

Jennifer Hopper

Proofreader

Jo Taylor

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich

Walking through Time

Irene Szabo, Tim Wilbur

A Naturalist's View

Randy Weidner

A Walk on the Wordy Side

Marla Perkins

FLT Archives

Georgianne Vyverberg

Finger Lakes Trail News is the official publication of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc., and is published four times a year by the Finger Lakes Trail, 6111 Visitor Center Road, Mt. Morris, NY 14510. Comments and original contributions are welcome and may be submitted to the editor.

Send address changes to :
Finger Lakes Trail Service Center

Copyright © 2017 by Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc.

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!

COLUMNS

- 3 President's Message
- 5 Executive Director Report
- 14 End-to-End Update
- 16 Trail Topics, reports from the trail management directors
- 24 A Naturalist's View
- 27 A Walk on the Wordy Side

CONTENTS

- 4 Tornado Damage on the Conservation Trail
- 6 Visiting an Alley Cat Project - Bucktooth Shelter
- 8 David C. Peterson End to End #417
- 9 The Second is Not the Same as the First
- 10 Tony Orsini's Gift to the Trail
- 11 Bullthistle National Trails Day Project
- 12 National Trails Day Project on Map M9
- 13 Cayuga Trails Club National Trails Day
- 15 Honoring Our Founding Members
- 19 Gerry Benedict Alley Cat Worker Award
- 22 The International Loops in M19
- 28 2017 Sidote Hike
- 32 You Should be a Member of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference
- 34 A Spring Adventure on the Trail

DEPARTMENTS

- 26 Bug Bites
- 31 FLT Named Hike Events
- 33 Name that Map! Answers to the Spring Quiz
- 35 Calendar

COVER: Tony Orsini created a wonderful several miles of trail on Map M4, replacing a road walk near Franklinville in Cattaraugus County. Among many improvements, each astounding considering all the work was done by one man, is this stone fireplace at the campsite he created. See article within and back cover. Photo by Nancy Orsini

THIS PAGE: Trail on Map M18 near the middle of the state, taken during the FLT Spring Weekend in June, centered in Dryden. Photo by Jacqui Wensich

President's Message

Pat Monahan

I woke up early this morning to write my message for the magazine. The birds were singing to start another beautiful day. The sun began to burn off the morning fog in the valley and reveal a blue sky in every direction I looked. It is shaping up to be another great day to go hike on the FLT.

I'd like to give you a brief summary of the 2017 annual membership meeting on June 10 at Tompkins Cortland Community College.

- The FLTC had a positive 2016 financial audit. We continue to be fiscally sound in our policies and practices.
- The membership approved the following slate of nominees to the Board of Managers as the Class of 2020: Dave Newlun and returning members, Donna Flood, Deb Nero, Mike Ogden, and Wendy Stevenson. Outgoing Board member Sigi Schwinge was thanked for her years of service.
- Approved two bylaw changes. First, the Treasurer position as a Board officer was removed from the bylaws. The Treasurer continues to do all of the financial accounting as was done before. She sends reports to the Finance Committee and the Board. She attends Board meetings as needed. Second, the Vice President of Crews and Construction as a Board officer was also removed. We now have a Director of Crews and Construction who continues to provide leadership to our crews and construction projects. He attends Board meetings as needed.

The Board approved the following new officer/director appointments at its re-organizational meeting on June 11: Lorie Chiarilli, Secretary, Melanie Okoniewski, Vice President of Trail Maintenance, Linda Hopkins, Treasurer, Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews and Construction. We appreciate Roy Dando's years as Secretary.

The Board recognizes the need to increase income in order to keep the organization moving forward. Several ideas were

discussed. We will not be raising membership rates to accomplish this. Your continued support through your membership and donations are appreciated. We would like you to consider the FLT in your planned giving/estate planning. There will be more information about this in the future. Our challenge is to reach beyond our members to new or returning trail users and FLT supporters. There will be many activities on a day we are calling Hike the FLT scheduled for June 2, 2018. We will also be hosting a "meat raffle" in the Ithaca area to raise funds for the FLT as well as an FLT Challenge hike over several miles of the FLT. The Board supports these concepts and will need support at all levels to make each event a success, from volunteers at the activities/events to participants. I hope you can find your niche to help or attend in each of these fund raisers.

Finally, we continue to struggle in the areas of membership and marketing. We need to get the word out about the FLT as a nationally recognized recreational asset. My neighbor has commented many times that the FLT is one of the best kept secrets in New York State. I understand his comment. As members, we know the beauty of the trail. Now we need to reach out through social media outlets, our website, visitor bureaus, NYS Fair, local presentations, rack card distribution, TV/radio/newspaper spots and other ways to get the word out. Membership strategies need to be developed to retain members and find new members especially young adults and families. You don't have to be an expert to volunteer for some of the tasks required. You can invest as much time as you want and invite others to help move the task forward. Please contact the office by phone (585) 658-9320 or info@fingerlakestrail.org to volunteer.

There is not a cloud in the sky. I am ready to tell myself and you to **"Go take a hike!!"** 🍁



Laurie Ondrejka

Join the FLT Yahoo Groups E-Mail List

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference's e-mail list is a discussion group hosted by yahoogroups.com. Its purpose is to allow the subscribers (approximately 850 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), Scott Geiger, (scott.geiger@gmail.com) and Roger Hopkins (roger@natural-highs.net)

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

Tornado Damage on the Conservation Trail, July 20, 2017

Story and Photos by Mike Schlicht

I don't know about you, but I've become somewhat immune to the sensationalism of weather reporters and the hype of possible severe weather and snowstorms over the years. On Wednesday, July 19th, I heard on the weather forecast that western New York was under a "marginal" risk of severe weather limited to downpours and strong winds. Imagine my surprise, then, when western New York was host to not one, but three tornadoes that touched down around 1 p.m. on July 20th. The second tornado that afternoon was centered in Holland, which is home to the Holland Ravines and where the Conservation Trail was founded back in 1962. As I watched the news that evening it became apparent that the tornado touched down not far from the trail. The next day I found a tornado track online of the storm showing the tornado track heading towards the intersection of Vermont Street and Vermont Hill Road on Map CT6.

Outside of a large tree branch here and there, I couldn't find any indication of where the tornado crossed the road so I parked the car at the Vermont Street access and ventured down

trail to the tune of chainsaws working away nearby so I knew I was in the ballpark. Just after the Verbeck Ravine (some of the ravines have names), I saw the first tree down of little significance, then at the Marshall Ravine two more substantial trees blocked the trail but I was expecting something more significant from an F1 tornado. Finally I saw several crowns totally blocking the trail and fearing I had found what I was looking for, I was surprised that it turned out to be nothing but remnants of logging that is currently taking place in that area (CT6 is currently closed between Vermont and Humphries for logging). A few hundred feet later, however, it was apparent that I found where the tornado passed over the trail

Ground zero turned out to be a section of the Holland Ravines known as the Becker Pond area, literally where the Conservation



Trail was founded fifty-five years ago. Seven weeks earlier over 50 people came to the dedication of a large sign recognizing the founding members of the Foothills Trail Club and the Conservation Trail. At this point on the trail, a blue trail takes you to the Becker pond and dedication signs but strangely enough, not a single tree came down in this area.

Everything that came down was spotty, totaling maybe two dozen trees along the CT and the first few hundred feet on each arm of the blue trail that leads to the pond. Unlike the tornado that touched down between Little Rock City and McCarthy Hill State Park in 2010 (CT2) that leveled every tree in its path, the Holland tornado was much more picky in deciding what trees it wanted.

I guess if you are going to have a tornado pass over the trail, this is the best outcome anyone could hope for. While there is a lot of work to be done, knowing that a few days' work with chainsaws, rakes and elbow grease will be all that is needed to clean up the trail was a welcome relief to everyone within the Foothills Trail Club. My

favorite picture and the only one that really shows the power of the tornado that passed overhead is the shaft of a pine tree that the winds stripped of its bark, leaving only a polished shaft. The picnic table 20 feet away was untouched. 🍁

Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright

Well, here I am well-rested from a week without technology on an island between Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay, and not able to focus on this report. Great hiking (maybe 40 miles), beautiful sunsets over the lake, lots of reading (6 books), good food and great company made for a very enjoyable time. I was guilty of letting my mind travel to the needs of the FLTC a few times, but my wife's gentle hand slaps took me away from those thoughts. And now, as I stand here, thinking about what to report I am convinced to keep it short. So, what are the key things you need to know?

First, what is happening at the office? Our exceptional staff, Debbie Hunt and Erica Cole, is making great strides at getting our procedures and data more effectively organized. The old ADA entrance ramp has been demolished by Terry Meacham and Peter Wybron, because it went to a door that opens into Erica's desk in the current office layout. It has been replaced by an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant ramp designed by Mike Goodwin and built by Mike, Terry and Peter. The flower garden was relocated by Barbara Lobb and Wendy Stevenson. MANY, MANY thanks to them for their hard work! In addition there is a specific handicapped accessible only parking spot next to the ramp. Early this fall the existing oil furnace will be replaced by our very generous landlord, the Army Corps of Engineers, with a new propane powered heat pump that will provide the office with cool and heat air conditioning. The new website, while much delayed, is close to being on-line thanks to the tireless efforts of Tim Sweeney, Scott Geiger and Roger Hopkins. The database continues to be improved and is becoming a useful tool thanks to the efforts of John Kerr, Dave Newman, and Erica Cole.

Second, what is happening to the administration of the FLTC? I presume that most of you have seen the "Help Wanted" needs in prior editions of the *FLT News*. While there are needs that still need to be met (VP of Membership and Marketing), many of you have offered to help. Lori Chiarilli has become the Board Secretary, Melanie Okoniewski has become the VP of Trail Maintenance, and Mike Schlicht has become the Director of Crews and Construction. Beyond these board level activities there are myriad activities that required staffing. Don Bergman and Jeanne Moog have agreed to fill the Regional Trail Coordinator job for all of the Conservation Trail so that Marty Howden doesn't have so much territory to cover.

While Larry Blumberg, Boy Scout Director, still needs more assistants, he has added Alan Percy. While we still need someone to function as the Girl Scout Director, Tori Woodcock Andruczyk has agreed to join Robin Carlisle-Peck, Laurie Ondrejka, and Peg Schmidt-Fuller as assistants. Bob Kremens has volunteered to become Manager of Business Partner Relations. Cate Concannon has agreed to become the Chairperson for our new Publicity Committee that includes Judy Austic, Ellen Banks, Jean Blackburn, Larry Blumberg, Scott Geiger, Carol Kobrin, Marnie Lewis, Marla Perkins, Lynda Rummel, Irene Szabo, Jo Taylor, and

Tim Wilbur. We are still looking for a person to have overall responsibility for the entire FLTC communication team (website, publications, social media, publicity) which is now mostly populated.

Third, what is happening to promote the FLTC? Strides are being made, but much more needs to be

done. Dave Newlun and Anna Keeton still need assistants to work on developing trail user groups that we will bring in additional memberships. Most of that effort, while directed at membership increases, can be successful only by promoting the trail and developing events that cater to the range of trail users such as birders, photographers, geo-cachers, trackers, trail runners, etc. To that purpose I have asked our affiliates to consider hosting other activities in addition to hiking. To that purpose I am working with the Steuben County Tourism Bureau to hold a Finger Lakes Trails Day event at the Steuben County Fairgrounds next year; we will need volunteers to assist in the planning (four people at the most) and to run specific activities over that weekend. The event will have bands playing Friday and Saturday, will have food and drink tents and/or trucks, booths for vendors such as outdoor gear, health, etc. Activities that we may choose to offer could be: geocache courses, shorter trail races, kayaking, road biking, a range of hiking lengths and difficulty. The objectives are to increase awareness of the FLTC, increase membership, and generate a new source of income for the FLTC and tourism dollars for Steuben County. Similar events have been held in other states with great success but I am not aware of any similar event in the geography through which the FLT passes. We still need to increase our efforts to educate the public and our public officials, whether elected or hired, about the economic benefits of non-paved hiking trails; it requires an effort by as many of you as possible.

The challenge of making the public aware of the FLT and what an incredible asset it is to New York State is daunting and fun for me, but the FLTC NEEDS help from you to achieve those objectives. Please offer to help even in a small way. Many hands make most tasks much more manageable. Thanks for the opportunity to work on your behalf. 🍁



Irene Szabo

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

Visiting an Alley Cat Project - Bucktooth Shelter

Irene Szabo

On May 18th I walked in to the site of a new post-and-beam shelter in Bucktooth State Forest, Map M2, Access 4 northward, not far northwest of Salamanca. First of all, I was mightily impressed with work done in that area when I compared my old memories of hiking there back in the late 80s. Then I had to scramble down a very steep drop from the road edge, and cross a stream, presumably West Bucktooth Run, that featured a lot more water than the puny useless bridge could accommodate. It sucked.

But now there are nicely done wooden steps embedded in the steep road edge hillside, and a wonderful bridge over the stream, but not brand new. It has substantial rock and timber bases at each end, with the bridge CHAINED DOWN as protection against flood times, and good ramps up to the bridge level. The plywood used to make junctions of several boards in the modest trusses that form the bridge frame is all encased very neatly in 1/4" square galvanized wire mesh. Why? Porcupines swoon with delight over the glue used to laminate layers in plywood, so they would have ruined the joints immediately. The tidy workmanship evident in these hardware cloth covers was admirable. I learned later that this was a 2003 bridge built by the nearby Ellicottville BOCES trade school, arranged presumably by Howard Beye.

Between steps and the bridge improvements the trail walks atop a berm impounding a private pond, with a quick drop-off at water's edge. Of course I had my new three-month old puppy along, who discovered that not all ponds have gradual entries. Luckily, we both learned that she can swim in green scum! However, now she won't go into water, the sissy.

Up the hill a little further under state forest plantations of Norway spruce and red pine, the new shelter was quickly revealed, and it's a beauty. Our new post-and-beam style of framing has streamlined the process so much that most of the framing was done shortly after lunch on day two, pretty amazing. I had thought framing members' angles were pre-cut, but not in recent cases. End-to-end Mahlon Hurst sold hemlock wood to the FLT, cut only to sizes and lengths specified.



Irene Szabo

Steve Marshall and Mike Granger hold the ridge board in the air, nestling it in between the first few rafters. A few power-driven

screws later, it actually stays in place. Miraculous. Then when the "skin" of the roof is added, everything is held together.

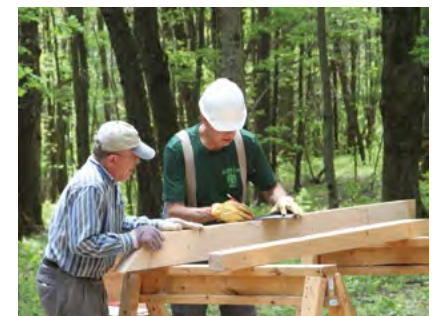
Then on-site a quiet generator powered a circular saw and a reciprocating saw, administered by Don Sutherland with able assistance from Don Bergman, to cut triangles and wedges and angles into the hefty rafter pieces, so that each has a notch in it that sits on the horizontal plates.

Here comes the amazing part. Each heavy rafter is positioned and screwed into the horizontal plates with a battery powered driver, screwing in an 8" long screw in mere moments! To think I nailed every board in my 20 x 48 foot barn years ago, with lots of five-inch screw shank nails! And even more amazing is that only ONE screw fastens a rafter to its bottom support plate, then the rafter is fastened to a ridge board with a few shorter screws. Holding that ridge board in place between the floating upper ends of the first two rafters was a delicate dance



Irene Szabo

Mike Granger power-driving those 8" screws



Irene Szabo

Don and Don notching and making angle cuts in the rafter pieces. How wonderful to have a portable FLT generator purring along all day.



Irene Szabo

The rafters are all up! Mike Granger is trying to extend his tape measure out to Steve Marshall so they can compare diagonals across roof segments. If they aren't equal, then the whole rectangle needs to be shoved one way or another and then held in place.

conducted from the tops of step ladders by Mike Granger and Steve Marshall, but these guys made it look easy. I am jealous.

At this final framing stage, it's almost time to fasten siding and metal roofing. *Voila*, a building! Meanwhile Dave Potzler was digging a privy hole that would receive a fiberglass crapper on a wooden frame, surrounded by a privacy screen. The previous day these guys, including Gus Phillips and Frank Occhiuto, had dug out a level platform in the dirt of a slight hillside for the shelter footprint, then made a level base for it out of 6x6 treated store-bought timbers, topped with a wooden floor that even had its edges smoothed with a router. Nice touch. An oversized heavy steel fire ring will be installed there, too, making the cooking surface higher than normal. Two benches and a picnic table are already built. I'm ready to move in.

Mike Granger, Dave Potzler, Don Sutherland, Don Bergman, Steve Marshall, Frank Occhiuto, Gus Phillips, Lori Chiarilli, Kevin Fridman, Scott Gohn (trail sponsor here, who lives in Cleveland!) plus Dave's tractor to haul everything in to the site on neighboring private landowner Meierjürgen's woods lane, many trips, all contributed to this palace. Hikers will never know how magically their temporary overnight house was created, or that materials typically cost at least \$4000, if not more.

Money for this shelter was given by an anonymous donor, to honor me, of all people. Wow.



The shelter complete.



Irene Szabo

It turns out that Dave Potzler cuddles puppies. Who'd a thunk it? The guys were even kind when she kept trying to steal their lunch subs and leap into their laps with her pointy little paws.



Lori Chiarilli



Lori Chiarilli



Lori Chiarilli

Lori Chiarilli arrived at the site the next day and took these pictures. Part of that day's crew posed there: front row, left to right, Dave Potzler, Lindsey Klinge, Kevin Fridman, back row, Frank Occhiuto, Don Bergman, and Don Sutherland. Lindsey was a passing through-hiker who happened upon the project at the right time, so became our first person to stay there overnight.

A dedication sign. There was an article by Executive Director Quinn Wright in our last issue letting us know that signs would be going up in shelters soon, honoring those who donated funds and the honorees, too.

David C. Peterson End-to-Ender #417

Sitting on the floor of a lean-to, peering out into the darkening forest, I began to feel the creeping grey chill of late summer twilight. While the lengthening golden rays of the sinking sun shot through the murky trees, I began to reflect on the last few years of my journey.

It was August of 2011, and I would soon be entering the ninth grade. Yearning for a level of independence little else could offer, I made plans to go backpacking on the Finger Lakes Trail, a footpath from the Alleghenies to the Catskills, with Riley Lloyd. My dad drove us to a trailhead near Watkins Glen and we were off, hiking towards a destination that even we did not know. Due to our level of inexperience (despite Boy Scout training), we suffered from blisters, dehydration, aggressive dogs, scalds, losing the trail, and incredibly ravenous mosquitoes. Night time was the worst. Two 14 year olds, alone deep in the pitch black woods, with parents hundreds of miles away, invented a world in which they were surrounded by bears, wolves, and scary woods characters, intent on bringing them harm. Although the white light of dawn brought respite from the night terrors, Riley and I had had enough. Resting at the midpoint of a grueling hill climb, I ashamedly called my dad, and asked him to make the 2 hour drive to get us a day early. We sheepishly decided to put away the idea of backpacking... until the following spring.

As we were slightly older and far more experienced, a Memorial Day Weekend hike through the sparkling waterfalls and gorges of Ithaca went beautifully, along with burnt mac 'n' cheese and a broken water filter. I fell in love with the FLT, and decided it was my task to finish the entire trail.

That summer, we spent countless nights camping in wooden lean-tos, or in tents beside quiet creeks, conversing through Tyvek walls before the firm grasp of sleep took its hold. After wordlessly agreeing conversation was over, we would lie back and listen to the noises of the woods.

High above in the trees we heard the mournful hoot of a Great Horned Owl, brought out for his nightly feast, the shrill call of a Whip-poor-will, gorging on insects, the constant whine of crickets, searching for mates. On some moonlit nights, we even heard the whooping of coyotes across a shimmering pond, or echoing through a pine forest.

For the next four years, I would often find myself passing under a dense thicket of sappy pines as late afternoon sunlight filtered through the overgrowth, or in a quiet dale, basking along with the birds in the early morning warmth. The trail would lead me to a tired autumn sun drooping below a darkly wooded ridge, releasing the hues of molten gold, and cooling to rich purples. Perhaps I'd emerge into a forest clearing, headlamp dueling the night, only to glance up and realize a vast array of silver stars, illuminating the winter sky like many uncountable, dazzling crystals. Although I completed my final step on that 570 mile trail last summer, a part of me will always remain out there, hidden in the glens and hollows, slipping over waterfalls and down gurgling creeks, lurking in the vast fields of late-season corn or barley grass. On some days my heart grows heavy, like a yellow beech leaf, soon to drift lazily toward the forest floor and a coming winter. On those days I long for return. Soon enough I will. 🍁



by David Peterson, father



by David Peterson, hiking son

The Second is Not the Same as the First

John Andersson #430

I finished my second End to End hike on M3 on June 1, 2017, thanks to Joyce Ermer. Joyce helped me with several hikes in western New York, and not counting the Cross-County or other organized hikes, we walked nearly 54 miles together. Thank you, Joyce, for your help, friendship, and venison

Other notable fellow hikers include Bodhi Rogers (keeping up with him as we hiked Chenango in 2013 increased my mph), and friends Barbara Nussbaum, Anna Keaton, Karen Serbonich, Gary Brouse, Charles Culp, and more. I truly appreciate the help! Special thanks to Mark Field and Dave Fish who graciously let me tag along on the 8.9-mile hike on M33 from Wild Meadow Drive to Balsam Mountain trailhead on the only hike with rain all day! I hiked this section on my first End to End with Jack Vanderzee, Phil Dankert, and Nick VanDam on June 12, 1998, as an out/back hike also in a day-long rain!

I began this End to End on April 10, 2011, on M19 with Karen Serbonich and her Cross-County Cortland pre-hike group. In between I hiked by myself and with large groups at FLTC events. I prefer to hike by myself or with 2-3 others; I find the woods are quieter that way but we are still able to share the wonderful things we experience.

And some of the things we experienced: a fawn “hiding” not two feet from the trail, young ruffed grouse bursting away as we approached, turkeys with only their heads above the grass reminding me of aningas swimming in a Florida lake, lady’s slippers, jack-in-the-pulpits, pussy willows, waterfalls, cows, sheep, unexplained piles of rocks, the indescribable palette of green. Heat, humidity, cool breezes, drizzle, blue sky, great clouds, colorful leaves, mud, slippery stream crossings.

We engineers like numbers, so here are a few: this 574.2 mile adventure took seven years of day hikes; 65 hiking days averaging 8.8 miles per hike. The longest and shortest hikes were 14.2 and 3.7 miles (but I walked these miles out/back so my hike was 7.4 miles.) I am lucky to live near the middle of the FLT so day hikes are easy, but to reach Ulster and Cattaraugus Counties meant driving longer than I hiked; once I left the house by 5 a.m. not returning until nearly 7 p.m. and ready for dinner.

The Cross-County series was a great way to get a lot of miles under my boots with very little planning effort. I hiked 267.8 miles (47%) of the distance either with the pre-hike group or on the organized days. Joyce and other friends helped me with 235.8 miles (41%) with our own day hikes.



At John's 2017 finish near Ellicottville.

Additional thanks for making the second End to End possible and enjoyable include the landowners, land managers, the FLTC organization, trail maintainers and car spotters. I'll never forget Ed Sidote shaking my hand as he gave patch #101 to me in 1999, and it meant a lot when Jacqui Wensich gave me patch #430 with a hug. 🍁

I hiked alone for over 70 miles (nearly 12%). Sometimes friends or my wife Luanne car-spotted me, or I walked out/back, but mostly I bicycled one way. I chose sections where the bike ride would be shorter than the hike, and downhill. This meant hiking uphill, of course. I thought biking downhill would be easy until I met Houck Mountain Road on M28 with its 10% grade lasting nearly 2 miles. A pebble lodged itself in my front brake and complained of the torture all the way down, leaving grooves in my rim!

I hiked my first End to End from 1992 to 1999. To borrow a phrase from Heraclitus of Ephesus, “no hiker ever steps on the same trail twice,” and indeed the trail of 1999 is not today’s trail. Thanks to the efforts of many people such as Rick Roberts, the trail is now a walk in the woods instead of on roads through the Catskills. Skiers, horses and bicyclists now have more of their own trails. Many other places are re-routed, some for the better. I found some of the same hiking buddies on both trips, made many new friends but missed some old ones.



Little Rock City on Map M2, north of Salamanca

Tony Orsini's Gifts to the Trail

Irene Szabo

Every trail neighborhood that suffers a road walk amidst rural lands deserves to have a Tony Orsini pop up, but the need outstrips our trail hero numbers. Between Boyce Hill and Bear Creek State Forests on Map M4 in Cattaraugus County there has long been a dopey road walk, out of place with all that uncivilized land about. A few years ago Tony saw the need and just plain jumped on the project all by himself, asking landowners for permissions and even buying one plot himself to complete the continuous line of “yesses.”

Cash Park is noticeable from Bakerstand Road, and he started there with a local park that had been deeded to the Franklinville School District by a man named Cash, then working from that permission, he asked for permissions in both directions and built trail until he had gone east-west just south of Bakerstand Road for more than a mile and then turned north just east of Rogers Rd. to get to Bear Creek State Forest.

All of this would be wonderful enough anywhere we need to get off the road, but Tony’s trail is extra special. He built a campsite with benches, a picnic table, and a rather special stone fireplace along an attractive stream. See this issue’s covers! He mowed sections through open fields, and helped delineate the trail there by planting rather large young trees! One suspects he has spent well over a thousand dollars on trees and materials, but refuses to ask for reimbursement.

Now his personal plans dictate that he winter elsewhere, which means a reduced summer home here, so he can’t even mow the trail he so lovingly built. One of his new landowners, Richard Dotterweich, has already adopted the east-west portion south of Bakerstand, while we still hope for an enthusiast to adopt the north-south leg.

Best of all, the North Country Trail Association honored Tony with one of their Trail Builder Awards at this summer’s annual celebration, so he and his wife Nancy drove to the north edge of Michigan to participate. 🍁



Amelia Rhodes, NCTA Staff

Tony receives his Trail Builder Award at the North Country Trail Annual Celebration in July from our own Ruth Dorrough, President of the NCTA Board of Directors.



Photos by Nancy Orsini

Bullthistle National Trails Day Project

Peg Fuller



Peg Fuller

On June 3rd, National Trails Day, the Bullthistle Hiking Club built a section of trail that connects Plank Rd. to the blue trail going to Perkins Lean-to on Map 23. The distance is 0.45 of a mile. The work began months earlier by our trail chair Tom Bryden, when he contacted the DEC concerning permission for the new trail and arranging for them to flag the approved route.

We had a great group of volunteers and we finished the trail in two hours. Final touch ups will be completed soon (such as signs and paint). The hard working crew consisted of Art & Sharron Sandberg, Pete & Colleen Stapleton, Peg & Mike Fuller, Larry Chesboro, Warren Johnsen, Rich Breslin, Claire Ders, Don Windsor and Anne Altshuler.

The new section will allow interesting loop hikes. 🍁



Peg Fuller



Warren Johnsen



Warren Johnsen

Larry Chesboro designed and fabricated a carrying case for the club's crosscut saw. Larry's cousin Cheryl Manwarren painted the mural.

www.bullthistlehiking.org

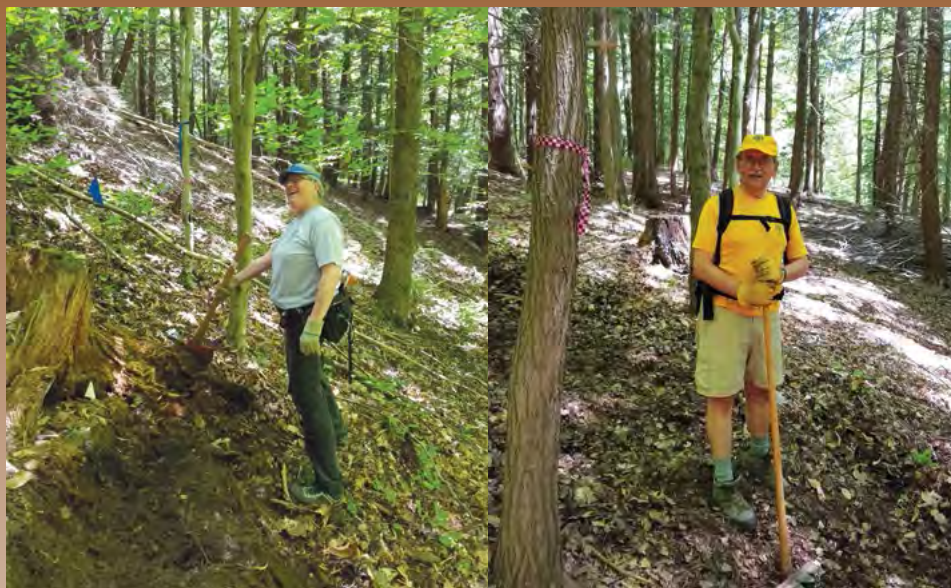
National Trails Day Project on Map M9

Photos by Jacqui Wensich

Northwest of Hornell, following up with the wonderful project we've told you about in recent issues to eliminate the road walk north of Pennsylvania Hill, seventeen volunteers showed up to build new trail on the several new properties where we now have permissions and easements. Starting at Hopkins Rd., Peter Wybron, Regional Trail Coordinator for this area, organized the work parties to follow flagged new trail, some of which even involved side-hill benching, all of which was designed to get us to the Steuben County Forest where we have a shelter already. Many of the volunteers came down from the Rochester area from the Genesee Valley Adirondack Mtn. Club Chapter.

The new route was all finished as of June 3rd, ready for final details like blazing and signage, which are nearing completion. When a revised route is ready for hiking, announcements will be made. Good-bye, roadwalk! 🍁

Frank Jones, left, and Larry Telle chopping at that hillside. These are just a few of the seventeen workers who built new trail on National Trails Day.



Lynda Rummel, our VP of Trail Quality, shows volunteers how to do sidehill benching.

Dave Newman, who negotiated the current permissions, land swap and land gift that brought us to this spot.



New Members

Catherine Ackerson	Buffalo
Tori Andruczyk	Honeoye Falls
Calida Barboza	Owego
Skip Battaglia	Rochester
Todd Chadwick	Olean
Doug Chestnut	Brockport
Lori Chiarilli	Tonawanda
Daniel Cogan	Ithaca
Gail Davis	Geneva
Eric Eagan	Rochester
Scott Feger	Webster

Dennis Fronheiser	Rochester
Curtis Horn	Webster
Skye Humphries	Ithaca
Timothy Keller	Rochester
Bruce LaPlant	Webster
Dan Lombardo	Nunda
James Lynn	Caledonia
Don Maryanski	Groveland
Tom McGraw	Marietta
Cameron McLeod	Machias
Jennifer McNamara	Orchard Park

Larry Moses	Buffalo
Alan Percy	Orchard Park
Pamela Peterman	Ithaca
Joan Poltenson	Dewitt
William Raymond	Mohegan Lake
Cynthia Ripple	Hornell
Marjolein Schat	Brooktondale
Thomas Taggart	South Wales
Timothy P. Timbrook	Alfred Station
Matthew Underwood	Webster

Cayuga Trails Club National Trails Day

Gary Mallow

More than 20 volunteers showed for our annual National Trails Day project Saturday, June 3rd. The project was the reopening of a long closed section of the Finger Lakes Trail from Old 76 Road to Level Green Road, Caroline, on Map M18 east of Ithaca. It was a lot of hot, sweaty work but a beautiful day, plenty of camaraderie, and the fun of accomplishing a shared goal. Lunch and T-shirts were on the club.

Perhaps a half-dozen years ago, local landowners were split over the issue of fracking, and some who had signs on their property assumed it was hikers who tore them down; hence, the closure. Fortunately, with enough time relations have healed, and we were permitted to put the trail back where it had been, eliminating a road walk but adding a hunting closure.

Thank you to Trails Chair David Priester, permitting private landowners, photographer Jack VanDerzee and all the volunteers who came out to reopen trail for hikers. 🍁



Gary Mallow



Gary Mallow

Fresh signs were posted at the restored trail segment.

Club members trimming the long unused trail and repainting the old blazes. Hurray!



Jack Vanderzee

Ribbon cutting for the reopening of this trail segment returned to life OFF road.

Gift In Honor of

Joel Mabie

from

Joseph Christine

Gift In Honor of

Don Berman

from

Mary Jean Taylor

Gift In Honor of

Harry Clar

from

Lonnie & Suzanne Clar

Gift In Honor of

**Jackson & Shirley Thomas
50th Anniversary**

from

Paul Helberg

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

Branch Trail: new people to finish all the Branch Trails. For some, in parentheses are their end-to-end numbers on the main trail, too.

#101 Gary Brouse (#379, 402) Horseheads November 15, 2016
#102 Barbara Nussbaum (#388) Ithaca November 16, 2016
#103 Joe Baldino (#405) Rochester April 14, 2017
#104 Clyde Morrison, Hilton July 14, 2017
#105 Diane L. Smith, Hockessin, Delaware August 5, 2017

Main Trail: new end-to-enders on the main trail.

#429 Josh Naylor, Vestal
#431 John Schmitt, Scottsville 2nd (1st time was October '99 #110)
#432 Laura Smith, Arkville (age 77, she took less than 2 yrs. to complete)
#433 Jack Sexton FIFTH!, Vestal (#s 204,334,369,385)

Updates:

The following hikers have declared their intention of hiking (or continuing to hike) the main trail: Lindsey Klinge has been sending in beautiful photos of her main trail hike. Jay Avery, Jamey Pierson aka Soaring Eagle, Brian Spigel from Olean, Nancy DiJulion, Scott Fegero. Phil and Mary Lu McPherson plan to finish in 2018.

Comments:

TIPS for aspiring end-to-enders: 1. Review the End-to-End Hiking section on the FLT website. 2. Join the FLT yahoo group (often find more spotters, specific location hints.) 3. Purchase new MAPS (remember FLT members receive a 20% discount for all purchases). Waypoints are also available. 4. Check trail conditions online frequently. 5. If you are not already a member, join the FLTC. Membership supports this wonderful trail. 6. Let me know about when you plan to complete the main/branch trails to receive the correct number. 7. Email captioned photos in full resolution as you hike and keep trail notes so you can write your E2E article.

HIKERS-PLEASE ASK FOR THE MOST RECENT CAR SPOTTER LIST TO AVOID PROBLEMS. (Just like our maps, these things change). Let me know if phone numbers/emails are incorrect or no longer working. Do not ask spotters to take long trips. Ask other spotters according to the maps listed on the car spotter list. IF you need a longer ride, join the yahoo group to see if someone is willing to help if you do not have a friend or family member available.

New Car Spotters:

Ed Bailey of Claryville is available to car spot M32-33. Contact me for info. I met him at the Firehouse during the County Hike Series Hike #2 this past June and was able to get his new phone number. Ed was my car spotter in 2004. I just followed him, left my van, and then my dog Mina and I hiked back to our vehicle. He knows every corner of this area.



Lynn Anderson

Gary Brouse
and Barb
Nussbaum at
Niagara Falls.

New E2ER Laura Smith has joined our car spotter list M30-31 which is greatly needed.

Other new car spotters are:

Tom Duddy M15-18. Phone contact only.
Gary Brouse M10-20 and the CHBT-all three maps.
Lynn Anderson M14-18 plus the Interloken trail
Gus Phillips is a new spotter on the Conservation Trail.

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

Your assistance is vital to many hikers. *HIKERS, please join the Finger Lakes Trail Conference and if possible a local club. This is a definite way to support the trails that you hike.*

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

Madison (age 10) and Dan Lombardo celebrate their Letchworth Trail hike in June.



Holly Lombardo

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

Honoring Our Founding Members

Sally Hardenburg



Ethyl Hittle, one of the few remaining founding members, with the cake honoring her.

pictures of the dedication and showed the video at the reception. The video can be seen on the Foothills Facebook page and the pictures are available at the Yahoo.com site.

Annette Brzezicki, Jeanne Moog and Sally Hardenburg formed the committee which planned the day including the hikes, the sign, the reception and the myriad details which go with this type of event.

It is interesting to note that of the 170 -- 180 private landowners on the total Conservation Trail, 60-65 are actually located in the Town of Holland which means we could call it Trail Town. 🍁

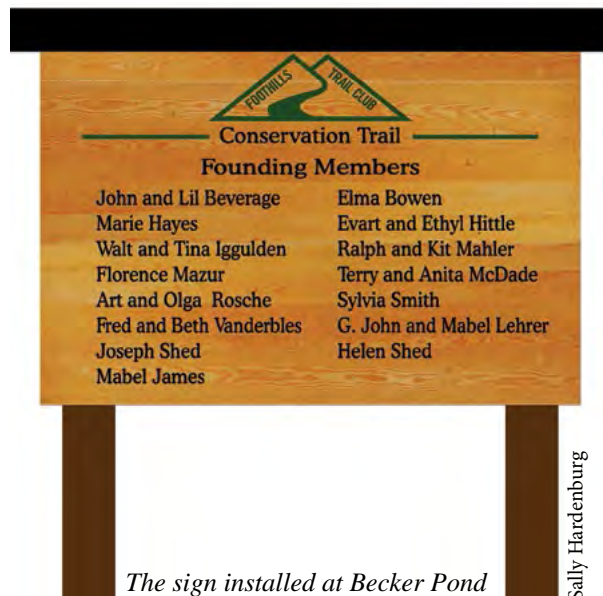
On June 3, 2017, National Trails Day, Foothill Club members were able to say a personal thanks to Founding Member Ethyl Hittle who attended that day's reception at the Holland Community Center. People were also able to hear stories about another Founding Member, Mabel James, from members of her family both at the reception and at the dedication ceremony. A letter from a third Founding Member, Florence Mazur, was read at the reception.

The day started with a 9 mile hike followed by a 6 mile hike. Both hikes went through the Holland Ravines, meeting up at Becker Pond where a sign with the names of Founding Members was dedicated. It was at this spot 55 years ago that the Founding Members dedicated the first 6 miles of the now 180 mile Conservation Trail. As was stated above, members of Mabel James' family were at the dedication of the sign as were local landowners.

A third hike went from Savage to Warner Gulf and back before these hikers went to the Holland Community Center for the reception.

Lori Chiarelli did a superb job of organizing, coordinating and providing the cake and drinks at the reception.

Gus Phillips, Frank Occhiuto, and Don Bergman provided the muscle power of getting the sign to Becker Pond and installing it. Marty and Donna Ruszaj took both a video and still



The sign installed at Becker Pond

Sally Hardenburg

SUPPORT THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL AND GET A FREE MEMBERSHIP

For **first time supporters** of the North Country Trail we have a special program. Make a gift of \$20 or more to the North Country Trail Association and you will automatically receive full member benefits for one year. Benefits include a subscription to the full color *North Star* magazine, discounts in the NCTA Trail Shop, email updates about special events on the trail in your area and more. You can also join a local NCTA chapter if you wish and receive updates about their activities.



To make your donation, please complete this form and send it with a check for \$20 or more to:
North Country Trail Association
229 East Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331

You can also join online at: northcountrytrail.org

Name(s) of New Member(s) _____	
Address Line 1 _____	
Address Line 2 _____	
City/State/Zip _____	
Phone (____) _____	Email _____
Please Choose a Chapter Affiliation if You Wish (Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Name _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Assign Me to My Closest Chapter	
<input type="checkbox"/> Member-at-Large (Not Affiliated with a Chapter)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Make Me Paperless! Send Correspondence and Magazine to Email Address	
Comments _____	

Trail Topics: Sponsor News and Trail Changes

Melanie Okoniewski, Vice President of Trail Maintenance

SPONSOR NEWS from Irene Szabo: we welcome with gratitude new sponsors in several areas. **JC Sawyer**, who, appropriate to her name, took the chain sawyer certification course this spring, has adopted what had been Mike Granger's new miles of trail on Map M6 in Allegany County. Lost permissions had necessitated a new route north of Sixtown Creek, and Mike obtained permissions through private land as far as he could before moving out of the area. There are several miles of beautiful woods featuring wonderful mature trees so we look forward to JC making the trail appealing through such a nice spot. I worked with her for a short time so already know her trail tidying instincts are good!

Don Maryanski works for Livingston County in one of the buildings near our Letchworth Trail in the County Park, so frequents the trail over his lunch hour AND is experienced with trail work. So we are grateful that he has signed up himself, his wife Kate Hilfiker, and his son Henry as new sponsors of the Letchworth Trail from its north end at the Genesee Valley Greenway in downtown Mt. Morris to the Hogsback Overlook, three miles south along the gorge. He adopts an addition to the Letchworth Trail that I built in 1991 to connect the original trail through State Park, Corps of Engineers' dam property, and the County Park to what was then the brand new Genesee Valley Greenway, and have tended until now. *Irene Szabo*

In these pages we have mentioned the park-like new trail built over the last few years by **Tony Orsini**, saving the trail from several miles of road walk on Map M4 west of Franklinville. Tony obtained permissions, created a campsite, mowed the trail, built a bridge and planted trees along the new trail, all at his own expense. He even bought one parcel needed to gain access to Bear Creek State Forest! Tony was honored with a Trail Builder Award at the North Country Trail annual celebration in Marquette, Michigan. See separate article.

Now, however, Tony has moved to summer quarters with no storage space, so he has sold his mower and needs to cut back on his maintenance duties. We are happy to welcome one of his landowners, **Richard Dotterweich**, to trail sponsorship. Tony's trail forms an L shape, one leg paralleling Bakerstand Rd., which Richard will mow and maintain, leaving the mile-plus north-south leg from that road up to Bear Creek State Forest still **OPEN FOR ADOPTION**. Please contact Regional Trail Coordinator Marty Howden at howser51@yahoo.com or 585/567-8589 if you are interested or just have questions.

Also Open for Adoption:

Rick Roberts, Regional Trail Coordinator for the eastern Catskills, has three openings. On Map M28 from Delaware County route 27 east to Chamberlain Brook Rd, mostly on DEP (City water authority) land but a short section is private. Rick says he mows most of the private section. The rest is mostly uphill going east but it's along an old road so not too steep. Total 3.5 miles.

The second opening is also on Map M28, starting just east of Dryden Brook Rd. It goes up and east to the Rock Rift fire tower down and down again to NY Rte 10 on the other side of the mountain. It's a steep section that CAN be broken into two pieces. The last maintainers wanted to do the whole thing and lasted only a year. Total 4 miles.

On Map M30, NY Rte 206 east to Little Schoolhouse Rd., all woods not too steep, total 3.9 miles also needs an adopter. Lots of berry briars on the summit for about 200 yards. Two access points.

Contact Rick to learn more or to volunteer. 607/746-9694, hikerrick2000@yahoo.com

OTHER NEWS:

Marty Howden's too-big section to administer as Regional Trail Coordinator went from the Genesee River west, so now new Regional Trail Coordinators Jeanne Moog and Don Bergman from Foothills Trail Club are overseeing the whole Conservation Trail, Maps M1,2,3, and part of M4 and all the "C" maps.

Andrew Garcia just took over Tim Fuller's section on M11 which is actually on Tim's land near Bath. Thank you, Andrew!

On Map M31 in the Catskills, Ralph Bressler, already a maintainer on a nearby section, has agreed to take over the additional section from Big Pond to Alder Lake.

Trail Conditions

Recent monumental floods have washed away much of the trail bed for the Cristina Creek Falls Trail (M19 and SpL maps) and that the trail is officially closed until I can get to rehab it some. It will never again be as long as it used to be, since for the upper 1/3 of it there's no place left to put it: it's just a deeply gouged-out gully, too steep on both sides for a trail bed. Anyone who tries to improvise a route is taking a risk, as the stream debris is very loose and unsettled and the gorge is now much deeper than before.

Alex Gonzalez, trail sponsor

Logging

Don Bergman and Jeanne Moog inform us the CT6 trail is NOW closed due to logging activity from Humphries Rd. (access 6) to Vermont Street (access 5). Bypass route is left at Humphries Rd., right on Vermont Hill Rd., right on Vermont Street to trail on left. Landowner thinks this will be closed for 6 to 8 weeks, which should last through mid-September at least. This notice will be removed when the logging is complete and the trail is open again.

Training

The Travelin' Trainin' Team comes to YOUR area every other year for a meeting with trail caretakers of every stripe, whether stewards for a club or individual sponsors, or anyone who's interested, for that matter. They discuss anything new that has

come to our world in the last year, go over various state requirements, share new equipment, and give you a chance to air your concerns. Please don't miss YOUR meeting, because there are always important things to discuss or show you that you won't learn about any other way!

The first one will be for trail caretakers from the Genesee River eastward through Bath up to and including Watkins Glen, including the Interloken, Letchworth, Bristol Hills, and Crystal Hills Trails. We will meet at the Bath Fire Department at 50 East Morris St., 10 until 2, October 14th. Bring your lunch. The second will be on November 4th at St. Paul Episcopal Church in Springville at 591 East Main St., which is NY 39, and covers all the trail workers from the Genesee River westward. From 10-2. Bring lunch. Questions? Lynda Rummel at ljrassoc@roadrunner.com

Bristol Hills Sponsor News:

Map B2 : Bill Gaske access point 9 to Wetmore has retired from service, but Scott Magee has agreed to be the sponsor Access point 9 to Ford Road. He already had Wetmore to Ford.

Map B2 Tuttle Road to CR 75 : we now have trail sponsors Nancy Peek from Penn Yan and Lorraine Manelis from Hammondsport.

Donna Noteware, Bristol Hills Regional Trail Coordinator 🍁

Meet Melanie

Melanie Okoniewski is our new Vice President of Trail Maintenance. A life member of the FLTC, she has volunteer experience on multiple Alley Cat crews that involved trail construction and shelter building. She assisted with trail design and construction on the Crystal Hills Trail, and has participated in some of the county hike series as both hiker and leader.

Her favorite outdoor pursuits include hiking, gardening, birds, camping, and horses. Melanie works as a Special Order Technician with Peerless-Winsmith. She lives in Colden, south of Buffalo.

Contact: 716/ 341-4737 melanie.okoniewski@fingerlakestrail.org



Allen Walker

Dawn over the Chemung River near Corning, with typical September fog rising.



Vinnie Collins

Trail Topics: Manners Matter

Lynda Rummel, Vice President of Trail Quality and Regional Trail Coordinator, Watkins Glen West

How would you feel if you found garbage dumped at a trailhead across the road from your house? If you found someone sitting on the seat of your tractor who, when asked to leave, told you that he had every right to be there because he was on the FLT? If a dog ran off the trail and into your yard, trampling your freshly planted flowers? Or you found fat tire bike tracks and deep ruts on tread that's for foot traffic, only. Sadly, all of these incidents have happened to trail hosts and trail neighbors, causing some anger, frustration, perhaps a little loss of love for the FLT, and surely, some disillusionment.

If any of these events had happened to you, would you still allow strangers to walk across your back forty? Fortunately, we have landowners willing to stick by the trail, but in the past, every now and then, we've even lost a permission because of such an incident. And while we don't have a SWAT team ready to respond instantly to the situation, we do have a very good "trail report team" that consists of your FLT VP for Trail Quality, Regional Trail Coordinators, and FLT office staff and social media volunteers, who monitor complaints that come in and make sure the appropriate RTC and maintainers respond. (By the way, trail condition reports should be sent to trailreport@fingerlakestrail.org, rather than to the FLT office, listserv or Facebook.)

Now it is likely that these incidents were not caused by serious hikers, who tend to be considerate and respectful of the fact that almost all of the land the trail crosses is not owned by the FLT. More likely it's the doing of some of those new to the trail (or else by those raised by their parents without being introduced to common courtesy) who don't realize that the FLT is a guest on the land, there only by permission from the managing agency or the generosity of a private landowner, and this permission can be withdrawn. Wherever it is, the FLT has permission only to run through a narrow corridor. If you're on the trail in a state forest (not state park), then you can go off the trail (and your dog can be off leash, as long as your dog is under control). But if you're on the trail on private land, for heaven's sake, stay on the trail! Do not wander into barns, over to a pond, or onto the seat of a farmer's tractor! Whoever you are, whether an experienced FLT hiker or a newbie, remember to thank a landowner, every day, for the privilege of hiking on his/her land. And equally important, remember to stay on the trail, keep your dog on a leash, and carry out what you carried in.

"Basic Training" – Workshops Coming This Fall

Last column, I covered our advanced training program for chainsaw sawyer (re)certification. Every chainsaw user who works or wants to work on the FLT System is required to be certified, and recertified every three years. This is quite a commitment, but the skills that are acquired are priceless. I highly recommend it. Almost always, we host two certification weekends each spring. (Contact Marty Howden at howser51@yahoo.com if you're interested.)

Every fall, FLTC's Trail Quality folks, in concert with the VPs for Trail Preservation and Trail Maintenance, offer a workshop



Larry Blumberg

This privy is at the Pharsalia Woods Shelter in Chenango County. In this case the privacy screen was placed correctly to enable a wheel-chair bound person to get beside the fiberglass toilet and then slide onto it. Alas, not every privy enclosure has been built thus.

that covers the basics of trail building and maintenance **and the newest and latest in policies and practices that affect the trail.** This year, the workshop will be held twice, first in Bath and then in Springville, primarily for those in the central-west and western parts of the state, but anyone and everyone who works on the trail or is interested in working on the trail is invited to attend. New sponsors or stewards especially should attend. (Next year the workshops will be reprised and will likely be held in Virgil and Bainbridge, so those in the central-east and eastern part of the state can attend more easily.)

October 14, 10 to 2, Bath Fire Department at 50 East Morris St. in Bath. Bring your lunch.

November 4, 10 to 2, St. Paul Episcopal Church at 591 East Main St, Springville, NY

route 39. Park in back and bring lunch.

"The Basics" includes the tools and rules for blazing, cutting back brush, creating proper grade and outslope, and the signage that's appropriate for various location scenarios, landowner relations and different kinds of agreements, from handshake to easement, and simple but effective ways to improve your trail and keep out unwanted trail users.

This year, "the latest" is likely to focus on making sure your trail facilities are handicapped accessible. Yes, we've covered this before, but we've discovered a few "oops" situations where the front of the privy is not accessible, the base of the fire ring is buried too low, or the lean-to entrance floor has nothing to hang on to. All of these situations can be fixed – the privy front needs to be open in front of the box, level, and clear of obstacles such as supporting 4x4's, so a wheelchair person can move alongside the box and slide up onto it. The interior floor of the special, high fire ring (ash, burned wood debris pile) needs to be below the holes in the outside ring. A grab handle can be added to both sides of the front of the lean-to, so a wheelchair person can pull him/herself onto the floor, but it would be more efficient if the design was correct in the first place. Several past issues of the *Trail Tenders' News*, the newsletter for FLT trail maintainers and interested others, have covered privy and privacy fence construction, so please start your reading there (on the FLT website, go to Members, then Volunteers and Trail Workers, then Trail Tenders' News) where you can search past issues by topics. We will go over these requirements during our meetings.

We also try to include a presentation about an especially relevant topic that may be of interest to participants, such as invasives that affect the trail or real world back country medicine. Don't know, yet, what this fall's special presentation will be; you'll just have to show up to find out. 🍁

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

Trail Topics: Trail Preservation

Dave Newman, Vice President of Trail Preservation

Good news: a new private landowner and a county legislature recognize the trail's importance!

Donna Noteware, Regional Trail Coordinator for the Bristol Hills Branch, is one of our volunteers who isn't shy about asking a landowner for a trail easement. When she discovered that Mark Moon, a real estate agent in the Penn Yan area, had recently bought a trail parcel located along the Town of Urbana's popular Mitchellsville Gorge section of the trail (Map M12), she asked. I suppose it didn't hurt her chances that Mark had been a high school student of Donna's late husband Tom, but hey, the key thing is that she asked. Mark said yes right away, Donna turned the project over to me to work with Mark on the paperwork and filing, and it's a done deal now. About 1,000 feet of trail overlooking the gorge, now with permanent protection. Thank you, Mark and Donna.

Steve Catherman may have stepped down from his many years as Vice President of Trail Maintenance, but behind the scenes he's still helping out. Recently, he learned that Steuben County was planning to sell their property on Sand Pit Road in the Town of Bath (Maps M11 and M12). After some strategizing, I wrote the County a letter pointing out that the FLT runs on a portion of the property and asking them to retain a trail easement in their name or ours as they were selling the property. At their 7/24/2017 Legislature meeting a resolution was passed to sell the pit, but they are splitting off the 9.7 acre parcel the trail runs on, and approved granting an easement to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. There is more work to be done to actually negotiate

the easement language and get it in place, but clearly the Steuben County Legislature responded positively to our input and is going to help protect the trail. That is really helpful. Thank you, Steve, for having your eyes open and recognizing this opportunity.

We're looking into selling two previously donated parcels to the New York State DEC, one for addition to Connecticut Hill WMA and one for addition to Bucks Brook State Forest. DEC's purchase lead time is several years but the process is started. We will of course retain rights for the trail, the State will acquire the property, and the funds we receive will go into the Sidote Trail Preservation fund for use in other protection deals.

I'd be glad to field calls or emails from our volunteers or landowners about easements, donations, or how to include a donation to the Sidote Trail Preservation Fund in your estate plan. We are making progress at the permanent protection of the trail... 97 properties protected.

It's really important that our hikers remember, appreciate, and if they meet up with one, thank the owners of the other 770 properties. These owners allow the trail on their property with just a verbal agreement. Over time, we hope many of them will be in a position to help us out with a permanent easement. 🍁

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

Gerry Benedict Alley Cat Worker Award

Donna J. Coon

At the spring weekend in June in Dryden, this award was presented to Pete and Colleen Townsend Stapleton. Donna Coon made the nomination and honored them with the award from the Recognitions Committee.

If you have read about the Alley Cat projects over the last four years you will notice that a pair of names keeps popping up. The names are Pete and Colleen. Since 2013 Pete has worked on eight Alley Cat projects and Colleen has worked on seven. Projects included four reroutes, two lean-tos, one bridge, and a series of dodgeways. They tackle each job with enthusiasm, skill, and efficiency. When given a task they are back before expected looking for more work! Their positive energy has been known to spread throughout the team with projects completing ahead of schedule. Pete is a skilled carpenter. Colleen has exceptional problem solving and organizational skills. They are both hikers and experienced trail maintainers. Their contributions to the FLT through their work on Alley Cat projects has been exceptional. 🍁

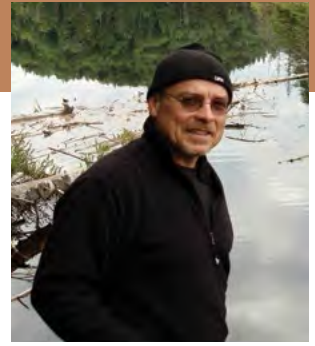


Peg Fuller

Pete and Colleen Townsend Stapleton

Trail Topics: Map Updates

Greg Farnham, VP of Mapping



The following maps have been updated since our last issue:

Map M09 was updated to add a new lean-to in Bully Hill State Forest, near Hornell, located at the old bivouac area on map M09 at mile 7.3. It was built by the NYS Assoc. of Transportation Engineers, Region 6. There is an existing outhouse on site with a reliable running stream next to the lean-to. Both the PDF and GPX files were changed and the Rev Date was changed to 5/23/2017.

M27 was updated to reflect a two mile reroute in Beales Pond State Forest. A 0.2- mile section of the old trail has become a blue-blazed spur to seasonal parking. A bivouac in the area is now indicated on the map. Both the PDF and GPS files were updated. The new Rev Date is 5/30/17.

The Conservation Trail's map CT08 was updated to reflect two reroutes due to loss of landowner permission and to incorporate the hunting closures listed in the May 15, 2017, Trail Conditions notice. Both the PDF and the GPX files have been updated. The new Rev. Date is June 19, 2017.

M02/CT02 was updated to provide a better bypass route for the hunting closures. During May and from Oct. 1 to Dec. 22, use Bucktooth Run Rd. and E. Branch Bucktooth Run Rd. between Salamanca's Washington St. and Access 5 to bypass the closed section.

M19 & VML were updated to reflect a reroute on the Dabes Diversion Loop midstate that shortened the trail by 0.1 mile and eliminated a chronic wet spot. The PDF and GPX files for M19, and the VML PDF file were updated, and the revision dates were changed to 7/29/2017.

M17 & M18 were updated to reflect a reroute south of Ithaca near Heisey Rd. on the eastern end of M17 which also changed the western end of map M18. This new trail off-road is now available to us after the FLT loan to the Finger Lakes Land Trust featured in our last issue. The PDF and GPX files of both maps were updated, and the revision dates were changed to 7/29/2017.

Changes are also in process for M03 to incorporate a significant reroute, among other changes.

Map Updating:

In our last issue, we discussed some of the history of FLTC mapping, and how maps used to be hand drawn, based on distance measurements painstakingly taken using chains and wheels. The process today is much less physically tolling thanks to the Global Positioning System (GPS), originally Navstar GPS - a space-based radionavigation system owned by the United States government and operated by the United States Air Force. The GPS is a global

navigation satellite system that provides geolocation and time information to a GPS receiver anywhere on or near the Earth where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites. In order to measure and record the track of a path on the earth, one must simply walk the trail with such a GPS device in hand.

The other technological advance that makes our maps so accurate, informative, and some say beautiful, is the continuing development of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software. Because the FLTC is a not-for-profit organization that relies entirely on the efforts of its volunteer membership, we are able to get inexpensive licenses to use some of the most sophisticated and complex GIS software in the world.

All of that technology enables us to have accurate maps. The trail changes constantly for many reasons, including changes forced by Mother Nature, the government, and the landowners through whose grace and hospitality we are able to have our FLT. Sometimes these changes happen unexpectedly and sometimes

FLT Mileage by County

COUNTY	Road Miles	Public Land Miles	Private Land Miles	Total Miles
Steuben	47.9	36.0	62.5	146.4
Cattaraugus	30.0	44.2	39.2	113.4
Cortland	19.1	55.0	22.6	96.7
Delaware	15.9	69.2	4.1	89.3
Chenango	17.2	44.6	20.2	81.9
Schuyler	20.3	42.7	14.0	77.0
Tompkins	18.1	38.7	18.0	74.8
Erie	33.6	23.8	15.3	72.8
Allegany	19.7	14.8	20.3	54.7
Livingston	5.3	23.4	10.3	39.0
Ulster	11.8	30.2	0.0	30.2
Ontario	5.5	8.0	11.0	24.5
Onondaga	2.2	16.4	2.9	21.5
Yates	6.4	10.4	3.5	20.3
Wyoming	8.8	0.0	8.7	17.6
Genesee	4.2	2.4	10.4	16.9
Madison	2.8	5.9	4.8	13.6
Niagara	5.0	1.2	0.0	5.3
Tioga	0.6	2.0	0.2	2.9
Seneca	0.6	2.1	0.0	2.2
Sullivan	1.6	2.4	0.0	1.6
Total	276.6	473.5	268.1	1002.5

they are by design. When changes occur, we try to follow a rigorous process for keeping the maps up to date.

If a change becomes necessary, the first step is that the FLTC must be notified. This is done via reports to the “trailreports” email address. The correct way to make such reports is explained on our website at <http://www.fltcconference.org/trail/go-hiking/trail-conditions/how-report-trail-conditions/>.

Once we’ve been notified of a condition that requires further communication or a map change, the cognizant Regional Trail Coordinator (RTC) takes action. The action may be to post a notice on our Trail Conditions page at <http://www.fltcconference.org/trail/go-hiking/trail-conditions/trail-condition-notice/>, it may be to cause some trail maintenance to be undertaken, or it may be to begin a map update process.

Only the RTC can authorize and approve map changes. The RTC is responsible for coordinating the work necessary to update a map, which may include having a volunteer walk a reroute with a GPS device, up through changing the map and reviewing it.

Our maps, supplemented with the current Trail Conditions posting, provide a hiker with all the information there is about a trail. It

is essential that conditions encountered that are not reflected by the current map, and not documented in Trail Conditions, be communicated to the “trailreports” email address, so we can take action. Every new trail and map change is encountered for the first time by an unsuspecting hiker. All of these need to be communicated to us so we can update our trail documentation.

“And next time, if the puppy dog doesn’t waggle his tail so hard that he knocks over the milk bottle when he’s trying to slide down the doormat, I shall have the pleasure next of telling you the story of” how the GPS device data gets onto the new map! 🍁

Hikers! Please remember to communicate trail problems to the people who will fix them by sending a report to trailreport@fingerlakestrail.org. No sense in complaining to the egroup when you can reach a specific group of people responsible for just such things by using our trail report site. Help us help you by reporting any trail problem...and soon!

Contact: Greg Farnham
FLTCmapping@outlook.com

Trail Topics:

Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews & Construction

It was with great pleasure I accepted the role of Director of Crews and Construction for the FLTC this past May. Over the years I have had the pleasure of being a part of a number of trail crew projects across the country as a volunteer and a project planner. During this time I have met and worked with great mentors like Lynda Rummel and the late Gerry Benedict on the Bean Station and Birdseye Hollow bridge construction/reconstruction projects and with Dave Potzler of the Foothills Trail Club in the Holland Ravines and Hunters Creek Park Alley Cats. Over the years I have also worked on trail improvement projects and environmental efforts for the American Hiking Society and Sierra Club.

One of the many memories I have had working on these volunteer projects is the great people you get to meet and work with. One of my first volunteer trips was to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan where we worked on the North Country Trail. Over the course of the week, we created new trail, installed bear poles and built several stair cases along a steep section of trail. In the evening after work, the crew leader taught us how to body surf on Lake Superior and dodge these monstrous black flies that attack you only when you are in the water. In between, we got to know our trail mates who came from across the country just to play in the dirt and have the satisfaction of a job well done. From that time on I was hooked on trail building and joined the Foothills Trail Club just to take on a section of trail to maintain and improve. It was only several years later that I actually went on a hike with the club and started to become more active in the hiking community at large.

Previously announced Alley Cat projects will have taken place before you get this issue but too late to be featured here. Next time... And in this issue you can read about recent projects such as the new Bucktooth State Forest shelter and three different trail building events on National Trails Day.

For the future, continuing the tradition of making the FLT and its branch trails a destination for hikers in New York State and from across the country, we have already identified three projects that are likely to become Alley Cats in 2018. I ask you to reach out to me and let me know of projects that you would want to see develop into Alley Cats not only for 2018, but in the years to come. Some projects take longer than others to plan, obtain permissions and permits for, and schedule. Proposals can be from structure building such as puncheon and lean-tos, to trail improvements such as creating switchbacks and drainages and everything else in between.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at pageazi@yahoo.com with your suggestions. It is only with your help and input that we can continue the tradition of those that have made the Finger Lakes Trail System what it is today and even better tomorrow. 🍁

Contact: Mike Schlicht
pageazi@yahoo.com

The International Loops on M19

Alex Gonzalez

Over the years I have been asked many times about the naming of the trails collectively known as the international loops. This article will attempt to provide answers to the most commonly asked questions. The official opening dates for each trail are derived from the installation dates of the register boxes as found in the log books.

The Spanish Loop Trail (SLT) is the oldest and longest. Opened on 9 September 2002, it was originally 5.2 miles but is now 6.1 miles long after a 2015 reroute. Originally, the route was planned as a Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) reroute, but when that plan fell through, it became an alternate route. I did not feel comfortable naming the new trail after myself, so I decided to name it after my ethnicity. As for its blaze color, orange, I have to go back to the days of our beloved Howard Beye to explain. Back then, trail manager Howard (and the Board of Managers) were somewhat strict about blaze colors: white for the main FLT, orange for side trails over two miles, and blue for shorter side trails. So orange was the predetermined color for the SLT right from the start, but, as luck would have it, the color matched the trail: Spain's flag is red and yellow, and orange is a blend of these two colors. Worth mentioning here is the fact that *all* of the international loops' blaze colors are taken from the various nations' flag colors. Two yellow-blazed SLT side trails are named for members of my family: Cristina Creek and its waterfalls trail are named after my lovely sister, and the Jose Trail after my father. The Irvin Trail is blazed blue only because of Howard's rules at the time, but it is named after the family name of my wife, Michele, and the Thomas B. Irvin Memorial Bivouac Area is named after her father, who loved the woods. Finally, the yellow-blazed Eric's Path is named after a friendly nearby landowner who hikes these trails frequently every summer. The SLT has much to recommend it, but its two main attractions are a pair of pretty, mossy springs; Cristina Springs is named after my aforementioned sister, while Mercedes Springs is named after my mom. The creek near Mercedes Springs and into which the springs flow is named Enrique Creek, after Henry Dedrick, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)



Mercedes Spring, a spot that Michele and Alex like so much that they have put Adirondack chairs there.

Michele Gonzalez

senior forester with whom we worked to get the reroute mentioned above. "Enrique" is "Henry" in Spanish.

The next oldest is The Swedish Loop Trail (SwLT), opened on 15 June 2010. It is an interior trail only 3.4 miles long if one drives the dirt roads needed to get access to it, but 5.2 miles long if hiked as it usually is from paved Daisy Hollow Road using the main FLT. Its blue blazes--and yellow blazes for its side trails--correspond to the colors of the Swedish flag. It is named after Michele's ethnic background on her mother's side, and the short side trail known as Willa's Vag (pronounced "vahg," the Swedish word for "path," "trail," or "way") is named after Michele's mom. Another side trail, The Stockholm Short Cut Trail, is obviously named after Sweden's capital city. No harm in teaching a little geography to today's youth! The SwLT's main attractions are its wild, sometimes rugged terrain as it travels mostly through

magnificent hemlock forest and along scenic Rowland Creek. Willa's Vag, in fact, leads to an outstanding lunch spot on a bluff overlooking Rowland Creek. This creek is named after generous local landowner Charlie Rowland (the "Row" of "Rowland" rhymes with "cow," not "low"); Charlie has for over twenty years been a great friend of the FLT, even keeping the trailhead and parking area near his home meticulously mowed and welcoming.

Next came the Lithuanian Loop Trail (LLT), opened on 8 June 2011 and blazed yellow to correspond to one of the colors on Lithuania's flag. It is named after the nationality of the local landowner and extraordinary ten-time FLT end-to-ender Joe Dabes, who is of Lithuanian extraction. It is 1.1 miles long. Its greatest virtue is its utility for those wanting to reach the main FLT while parking in a safe spot along narrow Babcock Hollow Road (there is no parking space at the FLT's crossing of this road). Most hikers also enjoy its passage through a particularly pretty Norway spruce forest. Grades are generally gentle, except for the parts where the main FLT is utilized, which are a little steeper.

Soon after came the Irish Loop Trail (ILT), opened 1 June 2012. It is named after the nationality of Joe's wife, Kathleen Brennan,

who is of Irish descent. It is another interior trail, reachable only by hiking 0.2 miles on the LLT to get to it and back from it, taking its length from 1.3 miles to 1.7 miles. Obviously its blaze color had to be green, and because green may be hard to spot in the summer months, I used a light, bright shade of green that is easy to spot in all seasons instead of the official slightly darker green of the Irish flag. The two side trails, The Brennan Bypass Trail and Kathleen's Boreen, are named after Kathy Brennan and are blazed orange, again in keeping with the colors of the Irish flag. In fact, the little trail system mimics the Irish flag's colors perfectly if we include the main FLT's white blazes, which the ILT uses for a short stretch: Green, white, orange. The ILT's main attraction is that using Kathleen's Boreen it climbs to the top of Brennan Hill, where two Adirondack chairs welcome the hiker for a shady, breezy rest in a remote spot. By the way, "boreen" is the modernized spelling of an Irish word that means a generally rough mountain road; since the trail is on a somewhat rough old logging road, the name fits. I should add that Irish literature has been the enthusiastic focus of my academic life as a college professor since 1980.

In the offing are three more loop trails. The proposed German Loop Trail in Kennedy State Forest would be about 3.5 miles long and be named to honor trail-friendly DEC forester Henry Dedrick, whose family name is German. Its blaze color would be either red or yellow, to correspond to colors on Germany's flag. Its chief points of interest would be a nice walk along an escarpment above Hilsinger Road and a very attractive stream walk for about 0.3 miles, including a part through a stunningly beautiful and extensive area of forget-me-nots. Actual construction of the trail will depend on whether the DEC approves the trail's creation as part of its Unit Management Plan in 2019.

Another proposed trail, The Ukrainian Loop Trail, would also be located in Kennedy State Forest and would honor another trail-friendly DEC forester, Mark Zubal, who is near retirement and whose family originates in Ukraine. It would be about 4 miles long and would be blazed blue or yellow, again in keeping with the nation's flag. Its chief attractions would be a pair of creek walks, one of which would begin in the DEC-protected, magnificent hemlock forest that hosts the Swedish Loop and main FLT. As is the case with The German Loop Trail, its creation will depend upon DEC approval in 2019.

The third trail, The English Loop Trail, is already under construction and will definitely become a reality because it will be entirely located on land that Michele and I own. Its projected

completion date cannot currently be determined because there's a piece of land we are hoping to buy that will make the route much more attractive; if no deal to buy the land can be struck, the trail will follow an alternate route. Regardless of the eventual route, its length will be approximately 3.5 miles. Its color will definitely be red, one of the three colors on the flag of the United Kingdom, which is where I and my sister were born to refugees from the Spanish Civil War. Red also happens to be one of the two colors of the strictly *English* flag, so either way, it works out very neatly.

Many have wondered about the purpose of naming trails after various nations, and some of the rationales are already suggested above, for instance the opportunity to teach a little geography. But the best reason is that human beings have a tendency to want to collect related things and if someone hikes one of these trails and enjoys the experience, it is highly likely that that person will want to "collect" all of them. That is what Michele and I want: to get more people out on the trails more often. It's also about the romance of trail junctions: Who has ever arrived at a four-way trail junction and not wondered what may lie ahead on the other three paths? Trail junctions fire up the human imagination. And they also increase the number of options for trail walkers, who can cobble together many different routes of varying lengths while only rarely if ever having to retrace their steps. This multiplicity of junctions is, of course, a formula for boredom-reduction.

I hope that this article answers most hikers' questions about the international loops. Hikers should also be aware that the four currently open loops can all be found on official FLTC maps, complete with mileage logs and trail descriptions. Don't rely on M19, whose mapback trail description is so full that there's simply no room for details about these loops. Enjoy the trails! 🍁



Peg Fuller

Coral fungus is one of many mushroom forms found in the woods this damp summer.

Thank You

Landmax Data Systems, Inc.
5919 E. Henrietta Rd. Rush, NY14543
585/533-9210
www.landmaxdata.com

LANDMAX

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

A Naturalist's View

Story and Photos by D. Randy Weidner

If you are a regular hiker of the Finger Lakes Trail, one of the most pleasing aspects of this activity is viewing the changing landscape through the seasons. Approaching autumn, the color changes of deciduous leaves attract the most attention. Considering the woodland in general, many plants appear to be in decline. Understory trees and shrubs are less leafy. Some more delicate herbaceous species are nipped by early frosts. Migratory birds are silent or have left for wintering grounds. Fewer insects are active. All manners of biologic activity seem to be slowing. Except for macrofungi (mushrooms).

To be accurate, the fungi have been active since at least the spring thaw. This activity has been largely underground. The perennial parts of these fungal organisms exist as microscopic threads of tissue known as mycelia.

While very small, these mycelial filaments form an extensive and interconnected net beneath the soil. Slowly spreading from a central spot, this network can become extremely large. A fungal mycelial net in Oregon was found to cover almost four square miles. Figuring backward, judging by its slow rate of growth, this fungus was calculated to be about 2400 years old.

The great age of a mostly microscopic organism might seem surprising, but fungi are known to have originated in deep time. Recent microfossils of fungal filaments date to the Ordovician, 490 million years ago. More astonishingly, from mines several kilometers deep in bedrock, fungal filaments have been found alive and actively growing. There they obtain metabolic energy consorting with bacteria or archaea capable of reducing inorganic sulfur for energy production. This energy is sufficient to allow the fungi to burrow through solid rock, secreting mineral dissolving acids and physically pushing forward. Ancient fungi were almost certainly involved with some of the earliest colonizations of land by plants, serving to render exposed rock into sites compatible with plant habitation.

It is believed that once plant life was established, fungi ultimately gained the ability to live off the dead plant material, assisting bacteria in degrading and recycling dead plants. These early fungi may well have stolen the required genetic mechanisms from bacteria. For eons the fungi happily subsisted as agents of plant rot. Indeed, many modern fungi are still rot decomposers. Their fruiting bodies are the many shelf fungi and other fungal forms seen on downed logs, and standing trees, where they live off the dead central tissue of trees.



Cespitose Cluster of Orange Mycena

With the rise of more successful plants, which began to achieve large stature supported by big root systems, fungi again showed their remarkable ability to adapt and take advantage of the changing environment underground. These new fungi abandoned their saprophytic, decomposing lifestyle and started to live in mutualistic associations with large plants, especially trees. This arrangement is termed mycorrhizae, and involves a close contact of the fungus with the plant root.

Several types of mycorrhizal relationships are known, but the two main types are "arbuscular" and "ectomycorrhizal."

Arbuscular mycorrhizae are more often associated with herbaceous plants, including many

agricultural crops, and involve the main part of the fungus living inside a pouch in the plant root cells with filaments projecting out into the soil. In ectomycorrhizal associations, parts of the fungus infiltrate in and around plant root cells, but most of the fungus coats and surrounds the tiny rootlets of woody plants, effectively protecting roots and greatly enlarging the root's reach into the soil through the fungal filamentous network. Mycorrhizal associations have been so successful that 95% of plant families are involved in this mutualism, including almost all the trees.



King Boletes, edible ECM (ectomycorrhizal) mushrooms

The two partners in mycorrhizal associations contribute their respective talents to the mutualism. The plants photosynthesize in their leaves and then transport the sugars produced to their

roots where the fungus taps into this energy source. The fungus protects plant roots both by physically coating tender rootlets and by secreting antibiotic substances to fight pathogenic soil bacterial. Additionally, toxic chemicals are absorbed by



Giant Puffball and Mushroom Setter named Quinn

the fungus, protecting the plant. The fungus also absorbs scarce minerals and nutrients from the soil through its extensive net, which are then shared with the plant. Beyond these vital functions, mycorrhizal fungal nets interconnect trees through their roots. These connections are so effective that they allow one tree to share sugars and signaling chemicals with others of their kind, passing through the fungi. And this is only what we now know. Further investigation may yet reveal further marvels of mycorrhizal association.

Back to your walk in the woods. Late summer and fall are the seasons for us to see evidence of what is happening underground. This is when those mycorrhizal fungi utilize the tree-produced sugars to send up their reproductive structures, the mushrooms. As it turns out, fungi employ a wide variety of large (visible to the unaided eye) fruiting bodies. To the mycologist, fungal shelves, puffballs, fungal corals, fungal cups, and even fungal jelly fruiting bodies are all mushrooms, in addition to the “typical” mushroom forms. However, the tree-benefiting ectomycorrhizal fungi almost exclusively produce those “typical” mushroom forms. Sometimes an arc or circle of mushrooms is seen beneath a tree. These “fairy rings” arise from fungi at the leading growing edge of the tree’s root system, a distance that also corresponds to the reach of that tree’s limbs. The number of mushrooms, and in fact whether mushrooms are produced at all, in any given year, depends on many complex factors, but sufficient rainfall is probably the most limiting factor. The best correlation with abundant fruiting is the amount of rain in the preceeding month.

While hiking the Trail in this season, keep an eye out for the many attractive mushrooms. Nearly every color of the rainbow is represented. Notice the various, curious forms. Look for patterns of growth like fairy rings and cespitose clusters, which appear like bouquets, individual mushrooms joined at their stalks. Experience the various textures (from slimy to velvety) and odors (from potatoes to maple syrup) of different fungi. Notice the powdery spores that fall from beneath the mushroom caps in colors of white, pink, yellow, green, brown, and black. But unless you can absolutely, definitively identify the mushroom, do NOT gather and eat them. Remember the two old saws of mushroom eating: “All mushrooms are edible, at least once” and



Apricot Jelly



Scarlet Cup



Fairy Ring of Chanterelles



Violet-branched Coral



Sulfur Shelf



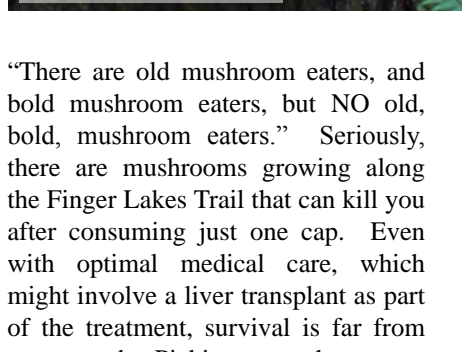
Coral Fungus



Hemlock Varnish Shelf



Fly Agaric, poisonous ECM mushrooms



Red Gilled Cort, ECM mushroom

“There are old mushroom eaters, and bold mushroom eaters, but NO old, bold, mushroom eaters.” Seriously, there are mushrooms growing along the Finger Lakes Trail that can kill you after consuming just one cap. Even with optimal medical care, which might involve a liver transplant as part of the treatment, survival is far from guaranteed. Picking a mushroom, to further inspect it, will do you no harm, but hand-washing afterward is advised. Neither will picking the occasional mushroom adversely affect the fungus. This is analogous to picking fruit from trees. So engage with and enjoy the forest mushrooms. You just might be stimulated to learn more about this hidden kingdom of living things. 🍁

SERVICE CENTER UPDATES

Reminder: renew your FLT membership now for the 4/1/2017-3/31/2018 membership period. If your membership is not renewed, you will no longer receive the *FLT News*, member discounts, FLT voting rights, FLT privileges and most importantly, you are no longer supporting the Finger Lakes Trail. Renew today to continue to help maintain our nearly 1,000 miles of trail.

Membership rocker patches: if you are a member of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50 years or a life member, do you need a rocker patch? Contact the office at **585-658-9320** to get yours today. Remember to let the office know when you have moved or when you are going to your winter residence and/or returning to your summer residence. Let's keep the cost of returned mailings to a minimum, since the Postal Service charges \$4.60 each for returned magazines! Your help is greatly appreciated.

Please let us know if you need a new membership card and we will send you one, if you are a current paid member.

SECOND SAWYER CLASS

2017 May 20-21 Chainsaw Sawyer Certification graduates:



Center: Mike Fuller. L to R: Larry Chesebro, Bob Kremens, Chris File, Steve Kinne, Bob Emerson. Far right: Bill Lindloff (instructor). Photo by Lynda Rummel, who also took and passed the course.

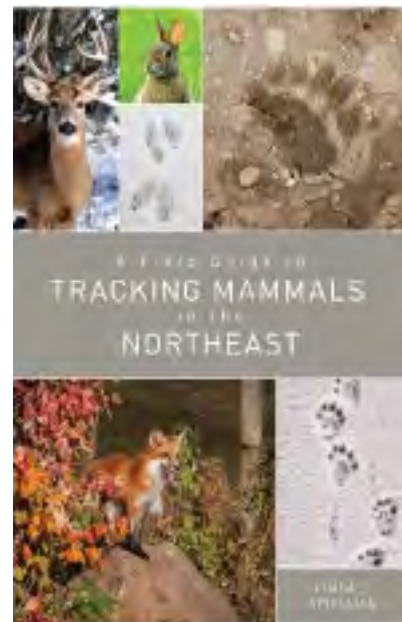
JOE DABES WINS NATIONAL AWARD

At the annual Celebration in Marquette, Michigan, the North Country Trail Association presented awards one evening, and Joe Dabes, famous for hiking the Finger Lakes Trail end-to-end ten times and for getting our modern map program underway, was honored with the Outstanding Landowner Award.

Joe bought a forested property that included the trail some years back, and not only has he added loops to the main trail, he also granted a permanent easement so that the trail route is protected there, through all future owners.

NEW BOOK FOR THE WOODS

Animal tracking, once a nearly lost art, has re-emerged as an important focus for nature enthusiasts and a necessary skill for wildlife scientists. A tracking field guide is now an important part of an outdoors-person's tool kit. But skill at identifying animal tracks doesn't come easily. Would-be trackers are often frustrated by partial prints or tracks that don't resemble the pictures in their tracking guide. *A Field Guide to Tracking Mammals*



in the Northeast provides everything you need to make an accurate identification of tracks from forty mammal species in the northeastern United States. Meticulously drawn illustrations portray a wide range of shapes and appearances for the tracks of each species. The book also includes measurements for tracks and gaits, thorough discussions of distinguishing features of both tracks and gaits, notes on scat and other sign, and diagrams of characteristic gaits. It is lightweight and compact yet comprehensive. *A Field Guide to Tracking Mammals in the Northeast* is an ideal tool for trackers at all levels.

Linda Spielman is an environmental educator and leading expert in animal tracking, having studied it for more than 25 years. She coordinates the Ithaca chapter of Keeping Track, Inc. and leads the Ithaca Tracking Club, conducting tracking workshops and outings for trackers of all skill levels. She lives with her partner and dog in upstate New York.

Paperback, published by Countryman Press, to be released July 4, 2017, 192 pages, 6 X 9 inches

ISBN-13: 978-1682680643

For further information, contact: Linda J. Spielman lminkspiel@twcny.rr.com (607)844-8522

Linda Spielman knows more about stuff in the woods than anybody I've ever met. I have been lucky enough to walk with her a time or two at Steege Hill Preserve, a Finger Lakes Land Trust immense property near Corning, and she SEES things the rest of us miss entirely. A little track in the snow, a scratch on a tree's bark, a poop in the leaves, she sees it all and knows who put it there. This book should be a treat.

The Editor

A Walk on the Wordy Side

Marla Perkins

To continue from last quarter's issue, in which a northern cardinal was using Hockett's criteria to make a case that at least some birds have language and that human language might be impossible or at least impoverished, the cardinal will now make an argument from anatomy and physiology. Humans have done this; many people would like to believe that there is something about the vocal tract or the brain that makes language unique to humans.

The northern cardinal might start with the syrinx, part of the "voice box" for birds. Birds vibrate the membranous walls of the syrinx, controlling volume and pitch by controlling muscles around the syrinx and by controlling the amount of air that they send over the syrinx. Some birds can produce more than one tone at a time, and exercise fine control over both sounds. Few humans learn throat-singing, a technique in which people vibrate their vocal folds and the vestibular folds. People who learn to throat-sing can control their vocal folds to some extent while engaging in throat-singing, but they have little control over the vestibular folds. The northern cardinal can conclude that humans cannot produce the vocal complexities necessary for language; if humans do turn out to have language, no doubt it's an overly simplified communicative code, which necessarily accommodates humans' relatively simple ability to produce vocalizations.

Just out of generosity, the northern cardinal might concede the point that humans' lips are more flexible than birds' beaks, but the cardinal would note that even without lips, many psittacines can imitate sounds that humans produce with lips, such as m, b, w, and p. Such sounds are a challenge, but the birds overcome the difficulties and talk with the humans. Humans cannot make the same kinds of adjustments, though, because they lack the ability to control their syllables with the voice boxes, as birds can do. The cardinal rightly concludes that anything humans can do, birds can do at least as well, and many things better.

Humans often make the case that only humans have language, based on neurological architecture. There is some question of what makes humans intelligent; the size of brains alone does not explain intelligence, so some people have proposed that the ratio between the size of the brain and the size of the body might be a factor. Following this idea, Irene Pepperberg, who worked with Alex the parrot, chose to work with a parrot because, after humans, parrots have the highest ratio of brain to body. The northern cardinal is not far behind the parrots. There is no reason, based on amount of brain, that birds could not have language.



Jennifer Hopper

But maybe the brains of birds and humans differ in function, enough that humans can have language and birds cannot. Or that birds can have language, and humans cannot. More research has been done on how human brains work and malfunction, but the northern cardinal would not let the bias of hundreds of researchers deter the inquiry. Instead, the bias could be used to suggest that bird brains are vastly superior: birds have no need to be constantly proving to themselves that they are brilliant.

Behavioral evidence for language learning in birds is similar to that of humans. Birds can vocalize without contact with other birds, but they do not speak as the other birds speak without growing up with other birds. Humans who grow up without other humans can vocalize, but they can become and remain non-verbal if not given adequate human interaction when young. Both humans and birds develop differences in vocalizations across geographic spaces; such differences are called dialects for both birds and humans. Birds acquire their vocalizations by listening to adult birds to learn the general patterns of the vocalizations, and then practice making their own sounds match adult patterns. Human infants spend a few months listening to adults and then spend several months trying to imitate patterns, in a process called babbling. Behaviorally, there is no particular reason to suspect that brain functions for language are significantly different between birds and humans.

The northern cardinal would note that the anatomical structures of bird brains are significantly different from human brains. The avian equivalent of the basal ganglia, which coordinates motor functions in both humans and birds, is put up front for the birds' brains. They don't waste a lot of time in egomania or self-doubt, thanks to not having as much of a pre-frontal cortex as humans; they get right into structures needed for their bird language. Birds, as well as humans, have the specialized neurons necessary to perceive and imitate others' motor activities, and feedback loops to help them perceive their own vocal productions and make desired corrections.

The birds have everything necessary for language, at least as much as humans do, and thanks to the syrinx, the northern cardinal can conclude that birds have an advantage over humans for language production. The cardinal continues to vocalize about all of the topics relevant to cardinals in Cardinalese, happy knowing that humans cannot fly and probably cannot speak.

As always, please feel free to contact me: dr.marla.perkins@gmail.com. Your feedback might become material for future articles. 🍁

2017 Sidote Hike

Peg Fuller, Bullthistle Hiking Club

On Saturday July 29, 2017, there was no better place to be than in Chenango County, N.Y. It was a beautiful day for the annual Ed Sidote Hike. The skies were clear with a soft breeze, absolutely perfect weather. The hike was on FLT Map 23 in the Pharsalia Woods State Forest (aka New Michigan State Forest). We kicked off the event at 9 AM at Nine Mile Truck Trail and Fred Stewart Rd. The location was close to the entrance to the Pharsalia Lean-to and coolers were already positioned there with hotdogs and cold water waiting for the hungry and thirsty hikers. The lean-to had been previously readied by trail maintainers Art & Sharron Sandberg. To accommodate the cookout, Mike Fuller volunteered to man the lean-to and prepare the fire for the first arrivals after the hikes.



Art Sandberg cooking hot dogs for the group.

The man behind the hike, Ed Sidote, was instrumental in having the FLT in Chenango County. We knew he wanted us to hike, so off we went. Many of the hikers represented Triple Cities and Bullthistle Hiking Clubs. Between the two groups, Chenango County has trail maintainers and lots of hikers who enjoy the area. Special thanks is due to Pete Stapleton and Colleen Townsend for making an extra trip to the blue trail prior to the hike to cut back the crazy growth we have been experiencing with the weather. The briars have been especially bountiful.

Thirty hikers set off on one of two hikes. The shorter hike was led by Art & Sharron Sandberg with Donna Coon as the sweep.



Peg Fuller

Thick undergrowth and briars try to close in on the trail in an area growing back in spades after a severe blowdown a few years ago.

There were 11 hikers on the 3.9 mile hike that looped down Fred Stewart Rd. westward into the woods on the FLT, passing the foundation of Fred Stewart's residence, and looping onto the blue trail and back to the Pharsalia Lean-to. The longer hike originally scheduled for 8 miles was cut to a 5.5 mile hike which accommodated the picnic and appeared to please most hikers. The longer hike was led by Peg Fuller with Bruce Coon as the sweep with 19 hikers. The hike went through the blow down area where many briar bushes are sure to produce a huge crop of berries very soon.

Both hikes noted the muddy sections of the trail with all the recent rain and the abundance of various fungi and wildflowers. Hikers enjoyed the special touches along the trail, such as an extra picnic table at the creek that had stepping stones to avoid the water, the FLT "crutch," the directional signs indicating which way to the lean-to, how far Bowman Lake was, and many other spots along the trail.

The hikes ended at the Ed Sidote "Mr. FLT" bench and at the Pharsalia Lean-to where hotdogs, salads, chips, veggies, fruit, and water were abundant and enjoyed by everyone. The lean-to had campers the night before (one group was three women on a 7-day hike and another hiker spent the night tenting nearby). As the final cleanup of the picnic finished, two more hikers were setting out on an overnight trip and circled back to the Pharsalia Lean-to to spend the night there. The lean-to is well used and is in excellent condition. The little touches, the proximity to a road, or perhaps it is the privy that draws in such a crowd, not sure. The area is beautiful and thankfully the hikers and campers leave no trace. Mr. FLT, Ed Sidote, would have been pleased with the day, and it was a day for Happy Hiking. 🍁



Carrie Williams

▲ Notice the tall rock wall paralleling the trail to hikers' left. Chenango County is noted for its many old stone walls separating what were once open fields, now deep in state forests.



Larry Blumberg

◀ Cathy Neil of the Triple Cities Hiking Club pauses at the crutch signpost.



Carrie Williams

Carrie Williams captured some welcome puncheon that helps hikers cross a low wet area.



Peg Fuller

Turkey tail is one of many mushroom forms found in the woods this damp summer.

More Sidote Hike Pictures



Carrie Williams

Off Fred Stewart Rd., the trail passes by the cellar hole and foundation of what was once Fred Stewart's home. Such are the old treasures to be found in state forests that now cover land that was once settled.



Peg Fuller



Peg Fuller

Relaxing at the end of the hike on the Sidote Bench and with a picnic.

Dedicated to the Dogs Who Hike With Us

Jacqui Wensich

There were twenty two donors honoring thirty nine pets at the new Moss Hill/Dog Memorial Shelter on Map M13 near Bradford in Steuben County. NOTE: other pet owners can still donate to this fund. I will add additional plaques of donors as long as necessary. This money will go into the general shelter fund.

There was a large crew of fifteen adults and two kids who dismantled the old shelter, built the new one, renovated the outhouse, completed firewood storage, created seating areas and an extra table in two and half days!! Granted that Bill Meehan, project director, and Lynda Rummel, regional trail coordinator, did hours of prep and finishing work. A local landowner, Linn Simpson, assisted in unloading the wood along with Mahlon Hurst, our wood provider.



Heidi Bellenger

Jacqui and her Mina at their end-to-end moment, a handful of years ago.



Jacqui Wensich

We had a corn shucking event Friday which took about eight minutes for two dozen ears. Twelve meals were provided by the cook (me) and there wasn't much left. We even celebrated a sixty-fourth birthday of crew member David Newman.

One of the highlights was participation by end-to-end mother Sarah Gravino, one of her hiking sons, Ethan, and his friend Kaiden. All were first time crew members and couldn't have worked harder. 🍁

See completed shelter on next page...

Colleen Stapleton removing nails from old boards during demolition. As you can see on page 19, Colleen and her husband Pete were honored with the Gerry Benedict Alley Cat Worker award this spring.



Bill Meehan

From back to front, Jason Costello, Kaiden Ruiz, and Ethan Gravino removing shingles from the 50 year old shelter during demolition.



Bill Meehan

Lynda Rummel brings in huge treated timbers for the new shelter's base with her "mule."



Jacqui Wensich

Many of the workers stayed at nearby Watson Homestead, where they husked corn for dinner one night. From left to right, Steve Marshall, Colleen and Pete Stapleton, Bob Emerson, Mike Ogden, Dave Newman, and Bill Meehan. Many helpers are missing from this picture. Full story in next issue.

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, October 14, 2017

2017 Erv Markert Fall Hike

*Bully Hill, Klipnocky Gas Springs & Slader Creek
State Forest's, Map M9*

Hike Leaders:

Long Hike: Scott Brooks scottbrooks18@msn.com Phone:
585/571-4141

Short Hike: Clay Johnson cjohnso5@rochester.rr.com Phone:
585/750-6796

Hike Description:

The long version of this hike will be approximately 11.4 miles long, and the short version approximately 4.8 miles.

Both hikes will start in Bully Hill State Forest where the trail crosses Karr Rd between access points 5 and 6. The trail will descend a rocky hillside with great views of the fall foliage to the valley below. The trail passes streams, pine plantations and passes through gullies. The short hike ends back at the meeting place. The long hike continues down Bush Rd. with many scenic views of the surrounding hills and then enters Klipnocky State Forest. Here the trail passes through an old rock quarry and passes two scenic ponds before continuing through Gas Springs and Slader Creek State Forests. The hike ends with a stroll through a meadow with beautiful views of the surrounding hills.

Meet at 9 AM on Map M9 at Access 4 (Bush Rd) – Arkport

Directions to Meeting Place:

From Arkport— intersection of 961F and NY 36 (NY 36 can be accessed from the north by Interstate 390 exit 4 or from the south by Interstate 86 exit 34)

- *Head west on West Ave. toward Davenport St. -0.3 mi*
- *Turn left onto Bishopville Rd. - 2.9 mi*
- *Continue onto N. Almond Valley Rd. - 4.2 mi*
- *Turn left onto Bush Rd.*



Bill Meehan

The finished replacement Moss Hill Shelter.

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, February 10, 2018

2018 Howard Beye Winter Hike

Onondaga Trail/Fellows Hill Loop FLT Map O1

Hike Leaders:

Sigi Schwinge, sigischwinge@aol.com or 315/437-6906

Mike Ogden, mogden1@twcny.rr.com or 315/418-0083

Hike Description:

From Herlihy Rd. we snowshoe the 3.5 mile loop: uphill to Fellows Hill (no view) then gently downhill passing Spruce Pond and along creeks with little waterfalls. If no snow it will be a longer boot hike. Bring snowshoes, micro spikes (might be needed for a boot hike), lunch and water.

Meeting Location:

Meet at 10 a.m. on Herlihy Rd. where the plowing ends, or - if no snow - at the parking area on the right at the trail crossing (not at Spruce Pond.)

Directions:

Take I-81 to Tully exit#14, go east on NY Rt. 80 for about 5 miles, then turn right on Herlihy Rd. for about 1 mile.



Warren Johnsen

A weathered old fence stile with an old blaze nailed to it, near Basswood Rd., Chenango County.

You Should Be a Member of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference

Gary Mallow, President of the Cayuga Trails Club

When I started seriously hiking in the Tompkins County area, I was clueless... all right, my fans will now be snickering that I am STILL clueless about a lot of things. What I am specifically referring to is my lack of knowledge about trails in our area.

Who owned the land I was hiking on, and who cut the trails? Was it some anonymous public agency that created them out of a sense of public service? Who kept the blazing maintained, the trailheads open, the brush cut back, the bridges in good repair, and the dead-fall cleared? Who built the huts (I would not have called them "lean-to's," as that was not a word in my lexicon then), and kept them maintained? It never occurred to me that many of the trails I hiked on were private lands that I hiked with the generous permission of landowners, but even if I did recognize it, I wouldn't have given it much thought.

The fact is that I didn't care. I just wanted to get out, away from crowds and noise and traffic, and the cares of everyday life. A few years later, a lot of miles on my boots, a lot of Tuesday night hikes, and I've come to the conclusion I'm not alone. Many hikers don't care how the trails and the infrastructure that supports them were built, or how they're maintained. They just want to get outside. It was a mistake for me to have this attitude back then, and it's a mistake now. Here's why:

Hiking trails are not static, unchanging things. This is especially true of the primary long distance trail that snakes through our area, the Finger Lakes Trail, but it is also true of the Cayuga Trail, the recreation trails near Ithaca, the trails in the land trust preserves and in the parks. Trails change when Mother Nature forces a reroute, or when foresters decide to allow logging. Trails close or are rerouted when private landowners sell or subdivide (as is their right), and, tragically, trail sections close when hikers abuse the privilege, irritating private landowners. Trails are more like living things... they transform to adjust to the changing realities of land use in New York. I see nothing on the horizon that is likely to change that. If anything, quite the contrary. Real estate development pressures and logging are increasing in intensity. These activities are drivers of our economy, but anyone with their eyes open can see they threaten the viability of hiking trails.

For the Finger Lakes Trail, the bulwark against these pressures is the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. The FLTC, as it is known by insiders, does some of the simple but necessary work that we all take for granted. The green-and-yellow signs at the trailheads come from the conference. The standards for trail corridors – the trail is a minimum 3 x 8 feet, blazing is white for the main trail, orange for spurs and loops, blue for lean-tos and privies – was worked out by the Conference. The chainsaw training that volunteer sawyers are required to complete is provided at no cost to the sawyers. FLTC organizes, funds, feeds and houses volunteer work crews every summer to build bridges, lean-tos, rustic trail stairways, puncheons and other trail structures. The under-the-radar work is done in meetings with DEC foresters and private land-

owners. A healthy, working relationship with the folks who own private land, and with our public servants who manage public land, is key to the future of the trail.

None of us trail maintaining and hosting clubs would have anything except crude maps of our own sections without the extensive mapping program provided by the FLTC. And if we pay attention, our maps, both local and distant, can be up to date within moments! Fun things like spring and fall weekends are organized plus county hike series offer easy ways to handle the logistics of transportation along the trail in counties far from home.

In my opinion, the most critical work the FLTC does on behalf of hikers is securing the long term future of the FLT, and this goes back to the changing nature of this and every hiking trail. Although most hikers don't realize it, we are, in fact, competing for the use of the land we hike across; there is no guarantee that the natural areas we love to hike through will remain relatively undisturbed unless they are protected in some way. Beyond that, access to those lands has to be assured, preferably in a legally binding way, such as a trail easement, in order to assure the FLT will be routed through these lands.

We have recently read of the purchase of a key property in Danby. The FLT has crossed that land for many years, but trail access for hikers would likely have been lost had the trail conference and land trust not intervened with a major investment of time, energy and money from the Ed Sidote Fund. What the conference has already done is terrific. But I am hopeful that the FLTC will do more in the future to secure the trail in our area by doing what was done in Danby: purchasing vulnerable undeveloped properties to assure the trail continues to be a quiet hike in the woods, rather than a hot, sweaty slog on a road.

In the end, it's your call. You can be like me when I started hiking here: I was blithely unaware of the amount of work it took just to provide me with an afternoon's quiet walk in the woods. I didn't know and didn't care. I am a little older and, I hope, a little wiser. I know how privileged I am to have a great hiking trail so close and so accessible.

To join the FLTC, and to donate to the Ed Sidote Fund or other funds, go to: fingerlakestrail.org, go to the Members menu, and click on: "Join/Renew." Do it to increase your awareness, and to support the jewel we call the Finger Lakes Trail. 🍁

*Thank you, Gary. Amen. Now how do we get this in front of all those N.Y. hiking club members who use the trail, maybe even work on it, but don't join?
Editor.*



Answers to the Summer 2017

“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:



Warren Johnsen

Warren Johnsen's picture is on Map M27, not far from the Getter Hill Lean-to.

Those who got correct answers are Mark Field (#424 E2E), Ed Ressler, and Rick Roberts, who said that motor looks like a three cylinder water-cooled engine, probably from an old John Deere bulldozer.

New Picture:



Paul Warrender

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		



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

A Spring Adventure on the Trail

Story and Photos by David Stickney

Five Scouts (ages 14-19) and three adults of Seneca Waterways Crew 247 set out for the Sixtown Creek bivouac site on the evening of Friday, May 26. Our purpose was to have an introductory backpacking trip on Map M6 just west of the Genesee River with enough substance to hone skills. We parked along Stickles Rd. near the trail crossing and made our way back to the camping site. Once the adults were set up, two vehicles were shuttled to Whiskey Bridge returning via the third vehicle. The weather was in the mid 50's with a light rain. We had a great night.

When we awoke, our goal for the day was a hike to the Camp Sam Wood lean-to which would be 10 miles. In the morning we worked our way to Buffalo Rd., losing the trail only once. The hike along Buffalo Rd. was enjoyable as we passed several Amish farms one of which was selling pies! We also experienced our very first Amish phone booth, a literal shack surrounding a community phone roadside.

As we turned onto Route 19, the elevation began to increase. As the trail entered the woods, there was a steep climb that inspired me to make a walking stick! We meandered through the woods and emerged at Rice Rd. to a herd of good looking cows who seemed to be quite entertained by us. As we made our way back into the woods, we saw a small turtle and some signs of beaver activity along Wiscoy Creek. We broke for lunch on a unique ridge that dropped off sharply on both sides. After lunch, we finished off our hike and arrived at the Camp Sam Wood shelter at 2:30pm. The guys hung their hammocks near the pond and enjoyed the views and nature sounds. After a late dinner, the guys tried to go to sleep, but the orchestra of crickets and geese was deafening!

Early Sunday morning we set off toward Whiskey Bridge. Ideally, we'd end the hike around 10:30am. The country roads were very scenic and eventually the trail turned into a farm field. We made our way to the back corner of the field and reentered the woods. There are a few spots in this section of the trail that are not perfectly marked. However, we easily made our way down to a stream crossing and climbed the hill on the other side which eventually descended back to a creek crossing. This is where we ran into



The guys gathered in front of a stainless steel maple sap gathering tank.

trouble! After crossing the stream, the trail turns to the right and then sharply left ... or so we thought! We ended up in a field on the gas line with no clear trail markers. After spending a full hour, we managed to relocate the trail. I suspect now that the trail kept going right after the second creek crossing. The rest of the hike went without incident. We enjoyed the walk along the old Genesee Greenway towpath. We finished up at 11:45 and shuttled a vehicle from Camp Sam Wood before departing.

The guys thoroughly enjoyed the trip and look forward to new adventures on maps M5 or M7. I should mention that one of our crew did contract a waterborne disease upon our return. We were using a ceramic filter, but clearly something went wrong. Even so, he will not be deterred. Thank you for everything that the FLT team does to maintain and develop this trail! 🍁



Climbing a lane between farm fields on a foggy morning.

Finger Lakes Trail

2017 & 2018 Calendar of Events

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 Fall Weekend, Chautaugua
 October 1..... Board of Managers' Meeting
 October 14..... Erv Markert Hike (pg. 31)
 October 14..... West Central Area Trail Maintainers' Biennial Training Meeting, Bath
 November 1..... Deadline, *FLT News*
 November 4..... Western Area Trail Maintainers' Biennial Training Meeting, Springville
 November 17 - 19 Board of Managers Retreat, Watson Homestead, Campbell
 February 1, 2018 Deadline, *FLT News*
 February 10, 2018 Howard Beye Hike (pg. 31)

FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE

STAFF

Quinn Wright, Executive Director

• Buffalo • 716/826-1939 • qwright@fingerlakestrail.org

Debbie Hunt

• 585/658-9320 • debbieh@fingerlakestrail.org

Erica Cole

• 585/658-9320 • ericac@fingerlakestrail.org

OFFICERS

President: Pat Monahan

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

Executive VP: VACANT

VP Finance: Charles Schutt II

• charles.schutt@freedmaxick.com

Secretary: Lori Chiarilli

• lori.chiarilli@fingerlakestrail.org

VP Trail Maintenance: Melanie Okoniewski

• melanie.okoniewski@fingerlakestrail.org

VP Trail Quality: Lynda Rummel

• Keuka Park • ljrassoc@roadrunner.com

VP Trail Preservation: David Newman

• Honeoye Falls • 585/582-2725 • danewman@rochester.rr.com

VP Mapping: Greg Farnham

• FLTCmapping@outlook.com

VP Membership and Marketing: VACANT

DIRECTORS

Crews and Construction: Mike Schlicht

• pageazi@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Linda Hopkins

• Mt. Morris • 585/278-7456 • lhopskins@fingerlakestrail.org

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Terms Expiring 2018

Scott Brooks • Rochester

• 585/571-4141 • scottbrooks18@msn.com

Anna Keeton • Ithaca

• 607/351-3466 • annakeeton383@gmail

Bob Kremens • Pittsford

• 585/248-5834 • kremens@cis.rit.edu

Terry Meacham • Hornell

• 607/324-0374 • tjmeach150@yahoo.com

Laurie Ondrejka • Avon

• 585/727-6495 • laurie.ondrejka@sungardhe.com

Terms Expiring 2019

Roger Hopkins • Lansing

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

Tim Sweeney • Binghamton

• timsweeney@fingerlakestrail.org

David Tuttle • Pittsford

• david_tuttle@pittsfordtrafficandradar.biz

VACANT

VACANT

Terms Expiring 2020

Donna Flood • Clarence

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

Michael Ogden • Baldwinsville

• 315/418-0083 • mogden1@twcny.rr.com

Debra Nero • Ithaca

• 607/227-7957 • dn13@cornell.edu

Dave Newlun • Big Flats

• 607/426-8145 • dave.newlun@yahoo.com

Wendy Stevenson • Springwater

• 585/669-9953 • wstevens@frontiernet.net

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

Another part of Tony Orsini's campsite on Map M4, just feet away from the stone fireplace on the front cover. A stream runs beside this charming rest stop. Photo by Nancy Orsini

