

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Winter 2017



Inside...

- * Novel Trail Angel Saves the Day
- * McGraw Bridge Project
- * Moss Hill Lean-to
- * Exciting Trail Protection News

WINTER 2017



Mission Statement

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

FINGER LAKES TRAIL NEWS

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COVER: On Map M9 north of Alfred, west of Hornell, Scott Brooks leads the Erv Markert hike on October 14th across the manageable Slader Creek. Many of us will remember that disastrous mid-90s day when a Steuben County hike took us across this creek when the water was thigh-high after a hard all-day rain. We had to cross in human chains to avoid losing smaller hikers! Photo by Janet Bernecky

THIS PAGE: On Map M13 northeast of Hammondsport but still west of Watkins Glen, adjacent to the trail is a spot known as Six Nations Cemetery, with a great view down Lamoka Lake in the distance. Vinnie Collins took this view, as well as the inset photo of one of the mid-1800s gravestones.

President's Message

Pat Monahan

It has been the fall that never ended. The fall colors were muted but the weather was spectacular giving outdoor enthusiasts an extended amount of time to enjoy the beauty of the FLT. For me, I spent extra hours rehabilitating two sections of the trail with some high school students and a new trail maintainer on the Crystal Hills Trail. My section of the trail suffered a wind burst knocking over multiple trees. Of particular note was a 20 inch diameter hemlock that laid itself across a 30 ft foot bridge (built strong enough for a tank to cross). The bridge suffered only minor damage and has been repaired. The second "mess" was a four clump tree that blew down as if it were the points of a compass along with many trees in its way. Thanks to the retired guys and others for helping to clean up the trail. It certainly was good for my soul to get out, get dirty and make a difference.

At the June 11 Board meeting at Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden, member and Regional Trail Coordinator Rick Roberts asked the Board to consider moving the current eastern terminus in the Catskills from Denning Road to Slide Mountain. An ad hoc committee was formed to research, review and report back to the Board on this issue. If approved, the proposal would move the eastern terminus from its current location to the summit of Slide Mountain a few miles away. It would give the hiker a spectacular view of the Catskill high peaks and the Slide Mountain Wilderness Area. It would coincide with the Long Path using existing trails with two options to leave the summit using other trails to reach trailheads and parking lots. There are many details that must be considered before the Board will take any formal action. If you have any comments about this proposal, please feel free to send a message to me at pmonahan@stny.rr.com by January 1, 2018.

In my last article, I had identified a gap on the Board of Managers. We have not had a Vice President of Membership and Marketing for a few years. The Board recognized this skillset as necessary to promote the FLT not only to its members but to other targeted audiences. We have struggled to find the right person to accept this vice president role on the Board. I am pleased to announce that Steve Czajkowski has offered to do this for the FLT. Thank you, Steve.

We are looking for others with leadership skills to serve on the Board in different capacities. Currently we are looking for a Vice President of Trail Maintenance (oversight of the FLT trail system with assistance from others) and others to serve on the Board of Managers. We are a working Board. All Board members are expected to attend Board meetings (4-5 full day meetings held throughout New York State), attend the Board weekend retreat in November and provide leadership with board level tasks, projects or committees. The time commitment varies according to the board work beyond the meetings. I have found in my 10+ years on the Board that the members are dedicated to making well thought out and fiscally responsible decisions that forward the FLT mission to build, protect, enhance and promote a continuous footpath across New York State. Forever!

We are making progress. We are moving forward. We certainly have plenty of room to grow to become an even stronger organization. Our annual Board retreat is November 17-19 at Watson Homestead Conference and Retreat Center in Coopers Plains. By the time you read this, the Board will have spent the weekend planning and strategizing how to move the organization forward effectively. Some of the topics on the agenda include a 2018 budget review, organizational structure review at the Board level (continued from last year), updating our long range plan, prioritizing marketing strategies, updates on website development and the Trail Days in the Finger Lakes event, and a variety of other topics. I will report back to you in the spring magazine regarding the outcomes of the retreat weekend.

As the winter blows in from the north and each of us settles in for the winter near a crackling fire, take time to get outdoors on a sunny day to enjoy the absolute solitude on the FLT. You will see and hear and feel the beauty of winter in New York State. For those of you in warmer climates, get out to enjoy a walk in the wetlands or across the desert. There is never a bad day to be outdoors. So, as you've heard me say before, **"Go take a hike!!"** 🍁

Roi Sinoff was visiting the United States and trying to get in a little travel before he returned to college in Massachusetts, tough with no car. He had an urge to take a several day hike so found our email group, which is how I ended up picking him up from the bus drop-off in downtown Mt. Morris and spotting him on the Letchworth Trail for a couple days.

Most of you should be able to tell from his Tshirt that he's Israeli, since those letters are Hebrew. He had travelled up here from N.Y. City by bus, and cruised through the Letchworth

Trail fast on one of the last days of September. I told him it wasn't normally that hot here at the end of September, but he replied that he was fine, since where he usually hiked it was way hotter!

It's exciting to have visitors from so far away walk our trail. Ironically, while he was waiting for me to pick him up again, he met Pat Monahan, our Board President. 🍁



Larry Blumberg



Irene Szabo

Trail Topics: Trail Preservation - A First for the FLT

Dave Newman, Vice President of Trail Preservation

In September we bought a 67 acre parcel to protect over a mile of the trail! A few years ago, it was only a dream that we'd ever have the financial resources do such a thing, but with the help of member donations, Sidote Society members, and several generous bequests from the estates of longtime members, our Sidote Fund is now controlling some \$750,000 and your Board is putting it to work.

Shown in green on the zoomed in version of FLT Map M18, the Tompkins County parcel at 861 White Church Road provides the key connection from the old route of the long abandoned Delaware, Lackawanna & Western and Lehigh Valley railroads on the west, to Shindagin Hollow State Forest on the east. We were fortunate to learn that it was going up for sale. Of course, we asked the owners to help us out with a permanent Trail Access Easement before the sale, but they declined. This left us in the usual spot: some chance that the new owner would continue to allow the trail, or the need to find another route across White Church Road, which looked like it would have required stringing together two or three landowner permissions in a row. If we couldn't get permissions, the trail route would have become the current 7+ mile hunting season bypass road-walk shown on the map!

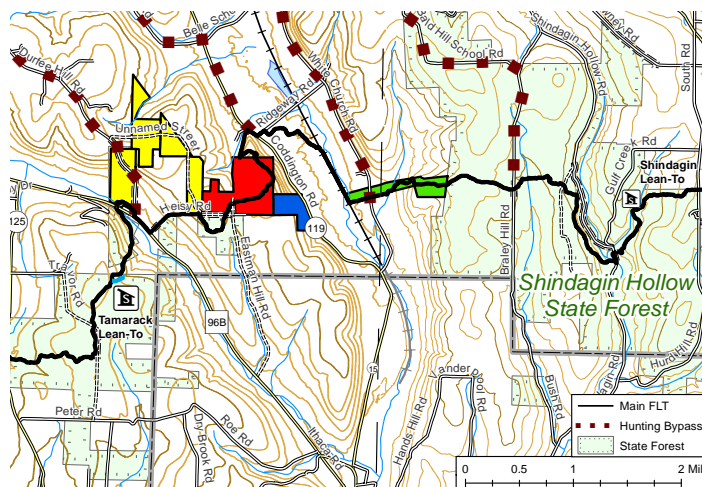
We paid about \$250,000 to buy this key link. We've since subdivided the parcel and sold 5.5 acres with the house, barn and garage, and \$187,000 from that sale has come back into our Sidote Fund. We're holding the other 61.5 acres until NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has funding to add them to Shindagin Hollow State Forest; that may take several years as the State's acquisition process has many steps.

We never bought a parcel ourselves before, but you may remember that in the Spring 2017 issue of *FLT News* we announced a loan to Finger Lakes Land Trust so that they could purchase the red colored parcel on nearby Heisey Road, and protect about 5,000 feet of the trail. Then in the Summer issue, we announced an additional loan to FLLT for purchase of the blue colored parcel on the map. While the trail connects northward from the now protected red parcel to Coddington Road, in doing so it crosses two privately owned parcels where we have not obtained easements, and requires a long hunting season bypass on Durfee Hill and Deputron Hollow Roads, also shown on the map. The intention is to construct a hunting season bypass down the blue parcel to Coddington Road. As FLLT plans to sell both the red and blue parcels to NYS DEC for addition to Danby State Forest, this will guarantee a permanent FLT route totally on public land from Heisey Road to Coddington. That long hunting season bypass will also disappear, and the potential that a loss of permission might make that 6.5 mile road walk the "regular" FLT is no longer a concern. We're lucky to have had FLLT's assistance in pulling off these deals – and fortunate that we had \$243,000 in Sidote Funds to loan them so they could do the deals.

But it gets even better! The trail used to follow along near where the yellow properties are shown on the map. Some of it has easement protection, one link did not, and an owner asked the trail there to be closed. So the trail goes down Heisey Road now. That's not the worst road walk, as it is about as marginal a DEC forest road as most cars can navigate, but we all prefer woods trails. It turns out that the yellow parcel farthest to the west on the map, while steep, is a portion of DEC's Danby State Forest. They've given permission for a trail re-route off busy State Route 96-B that will then connect with where the trail used to go, crossing the yellow parcels, and bypassing the private closed section. As it is steep, side-hill benched trail and some steps will be needed here, as is the case over on a short section of the blue parcel too. This work is on the schedule as one of our Alley Cat volunteer work projects for 2018.

Together, the red, blue and now green projects have guaranteed the trail link between Danby State Forest and Shindagin Hollow State Forest through a very challenging terrain where the road walk bypass alternatives are particularly obnoxious. We'll continue to focus our limited resources on similar "key" link parcels.

Thank you to all of our Sidote Fund donors. While our main trail preservation method has been and will remain landowners voluntarily donating easements, there will be a few key places where that simply isn't going to be an option and we'll have to decide if we take our chances – or take the plunge and help buy the parcel as we have in these cases. Our sincere hope is that you, our members and friends, will continue to support our Sidote Fund so that we have the resources available to protect key trail parcels when the opportunity comes up. Together, we're really working on the very last word here: "The mission of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference is to build, protect, enhance and promote a continuous footpath across New York State – **Forever!**" 🍁



Contact: Dave Newman
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585/582-2725

Alley Cat #3, Taylor Valley Lean-To

Mike TenKate, Photos by Nigel Dyson-Hudson

The Taylor Valley Lean-to project was completed by Alley Cat Crew #3, September 16th through the 18th. This important project closed a 45-mile gap between the Woodchuck Hollow Lean-to in Tuller Hill State Forest on Map M20 just west of Interstate 81, and Paradise Garden Lean-to in Mariposa State Forest on Map M22, just into the northwest corner of Chenango County. This new lean-to, when coupled with the one in Hoxie Gorge State Forest (2016 Alley Cat project), filled in this area with lean-tos a day's walk apart.

This project was originally proposed to the DEC through the public input process and final approval was obtained in the Taylor Valley Unit Management Plan in January 2015. The lean-to serves to honor Horst Schwinge, whose first Alley Cat participation was in the same place, where he helped carve the switchbacks out of this hillside some 20 years ago. The new shelter is near the top end of the switchbacks up the east hill of Taylor Valley. Horst's wife Sigi and son Eric Schwinge participated in the construction, and the project is a gift from Sigi and her sons Eric and Claus. Horst has multiple myeloma in his spine, so hasn't been able to visit the site. Sigi said, "We kept it a secret from Horst and it was a surprise for him when Eric and I showed him photos of the various stages of building, after returning home in the evening from the Alley Cat site."

The original plan was for the project to start with a limited crew on Saturday and focus on just getting the lumber in place for the full crew on Sunday. Fortunately we were able to use the Virgil Fire Department ATV and trailer to haul the lumber up the logging skid road (we used the FLT UTV a little but the grade was too much for it).

However, we ended up getting a lot of volunteers for Saturday and were able to get the privy dug and the first layer of the foundation in. This ground work put us in a great place to hit the ground running on Sunday. We had another great volunteer turnout on Sunday and got the majority of the construction done, leaving us only to frame and finish the roof on Monday. It was a great pleasure to work with this wonderful crew of volunteers!

The crew consisted of Sigi Schwinge, Eric Schwinge, MJ Uttech (who made us awesome lunches!), Chuck Uttech, Kenny Fellers, Linda Ratsep, Colleen Townsend, Pete Stapleton, Nigel Dyson-Hudson, Bill Brosseau, Ann Netter, John Hollopeter, Michael Loftus, Jon Raes, Tony Rodriguez, Mike TenKate, Julie TenKate, Maddy TenKate, Callie TenKate, Dan Little (DEC Forester) and the always wonderful to work with Construction Manager Mike Ogden. 🍁



Sigi and her son Eric.



Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright

2017 has been an invigorating year for me as the Executive Director of the FLTC. There have been many challenges that the Board of Managers has had to address. The significant areas that have emerged with solutions are:

1. Opportunities to utilize Sidote Funds to protect the Finger Lakes Trail. Dave Newman has reported on this several times.
2. Finally finding a marketing professional to fill the position of VP of Membership and Marketing. Please welcome Steve Czajkowski. He has many ideas about how to promote the FLT and to move the organization into a more prominent position in the eyes of the public.
3. We have filled many of the committee positions that needed staffing, and I thank those of you who stepped forward. Key people were Scott Geiger and Tim Sweeney who will manage the new website, Cate Concannon who is chairperson of our new Publicity Committee (and we are still looking for members to assist on this committee).
4. Our new website should be live on or about December 3rd. While not desired, there may be some glitches. Many, many hours have been spent by the website committee of Lori Chiarilli, Cate Concannon, Scott Geiger, Roger Hopkins, and Tim Sweeney working with the development firm. A simple thank you is not enough to express my gratitude.

The objective was to provide visitors a website with a more modern look and a site that is much easier to navigate whether on a PC or a mobile device. We encourage you to communicate any problems with the new website. The website contains the same great content as before but in a more modern framework. In addition, the website has several new features for our members. We'll be sending out an email with information about those new features.

2018 promises some new challenges that we will need to address:

1. Once again we need a VP of Trail Maintenance. The job is not as daunting as it once was since most of the tasks have been undertaken by other people. So the job is now more administrative with focus on organization and communication with a great staff of assistants.
2. The office database MUST be reorganized and redesigned. This is a year-long project in order for the database to be more functional as a tool for the Board of Managers and the management team. Those of you who assist on various committees will be asked to participate on tele-conferences led by our data clerk, Erica Cole, in order to understand the needs of the various stakeholders who need the database.
3. The FLTC will no longer carry inventory of dry goods such as apparel, patches, glassware, etc. Shortly, you will be able to access the Finger Lakes Store through a 3rd party, PSP Unlimited. This has many benefits. First and foremost,

the FLTC will no longer be saddled with dead inventory which will assist our bottom line. Second, the product offerings will be greatly expanded with more types, styles and colors. You will

order and pay for your items through that site and the FLTC will receive a commission. Pricing on the items with which you are familiar will almost certainly be priced the same or lower than before. Please let us know of items that you would like to see on the offering pages and if there are any problems. More details on this will be coming once the new website is live.

4. As I have pointed out before the FLTC has not done a good job of promoting itself. To address that problem we will be hosting the first of what is hoped to be an annual event. On July 27 to July 29 the FLTC, in partnership with the Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau will host the first ever Trail Days in the Finger Lakes at the Steuben County Fairgrounds in Bath. We will be promoting the Finger Lakes Trail within a 100 mile radius of Bath (Syracuse to Buffalo) and offering a multitude of activities including the following, plus welcome your suggestions:

- A. Guided hiking from introductory, through various speed groups, and including urban
- B. Trail races
- C. Geo-caching
- D. Nature hikes: flowers, birds, tracking, scenic
- E. Photography
- F. Presentations having to do with: gear, Audubon, wellness, etc.
- G. Musical entertainment
- H. Themed hikes partnered with visits to wineries, breweries, cideries, and more

There will be facilities for trailer and tent camping. Our committee will be looking for volunteers to lead hikes and keep the fairgrounds functioning effectively. Anna Keeton is in charge of the volunteers at the fairgrounds (annakeeton383@gmail.com). Deb Nero is in charge of the program activities (contact Deb at dn13@cornell.edu if you are willing to lead hikes or make a presentation). And Dave Newlun is in charge of finding and organizing the many vendors who will be at the fairgrounds (dave.newlun@yahoo.com). This event has the potential for



Kathy Eisele

a great economic boost to both the tourism industry of Steuben County and to the operating budget of the FLTC, so your help will be critically important. Please contact Anna, Dave or Deb to offer your help.

Volunteers Needed for Trail Days in the Finger Lakes 2018

The Volunteer Sub-Committee for Trail Days in the Finger Lakes 2018 needs volunteers to sign up. Do you enjoy assisting and meeting new people? Would you like some of your expenses for this fun weekend covered? Email Anna Keeton annakeeton383@gmail.com for details and to sign up for shifts in one or more of the following seven categories:

Entrance Gates, Parking, Campground Hosts, Information Booth, Recycling and Trash, Entertainment, Food & Beverage. 🍁

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

BOY SCOUT CAMPOREE

Paul Good

Liaison, FLTC and BSA Five Rivers Council

At the request of the BSA/Five Rivers Council, Dave Newlun and I, assisted by Boy Scouts Brandon and Marcus Paul, spent the afternoon of October 21st promoting the Finger Lakes Trail to Boy Scouts and leaders at a fall camporee. The camporee was held on the newly donated *Dormann Wilderness Outpost Area* located a few hundred yards from the Finger Lakes Trail on Map M13 near Bradford, southeast of Bath. The Williamson Road and Thunderbird Districts of the Five Rivers Council covers an area from near Dansville to Corning and south into Pennsylvania. Over the course of the afternoon we spoke to 50 or more Scouts in groups of 8 to 10, touting the opportunities the FLT provides and how we can benefit from each other. The trail can be used to work on a variety of merit badges as well as service projects.



Dave Newlun

2018 NCTA EXTENDED OUTING:

Hiking in N.Y.'s Allegany State Park & Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest

23-29 September 2018

The 2018 North Country Trail Association Extended Outing will feature sections of the NCT in New York's Allegany State Park (ASP) and Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest (ANF), with a day's outing to Letchworth State Park (LSP), voted the best park in the USA in 2015. This outing includes three day-hiking adventures, where you'll trek 6 to 10 miles per day. You will also backpack two days, covering 7.5 to 9 miles each day, with one overnight camping at an NCT lean-to. If you enjoy hiking in the pristine woods, observing waterfalls and wildlife, rustic cabin living, wilderness camping and want to walk a few more miles on the NCT, this is the Extended Outing for you.

All three places have a rich diversity of plant life, wildflowers, hardwood trees and an abundance of wildlife, such as bobcats and black bears. There are many species of birds, including bald eagles, osprey and great blue herons. In addition, the creeks, lakes and wetlands are home to turtles, frogs, toads, salamanders and snakes, and the lakes are stocked with trout. Letchworth State Park offers spectacular scenic overlooks of the Genesee River Gorge and its three breathtaking waterfalls.

The hikes are on remote trails and the topography is mostly rolling hills. The elevations are around 1300 to 2250 feet. You'll know you're hiking during the fall season when you observe the vibrant colors, due to the varied assortment of forest trees and brush. You will be shuttled to and from the trailheads and stay in two rustic cabins within Allegany State Park (a step above tent camping). Depending on enrollment, there will be four to five participants per cabin and occupancy will be co-ed.

Contact guide for detailed itinerary and application packet.

Guide: Allison Powell, NYS Licensed & Insured Guide

Hikeyourownhike1@gmail.com 602-451-1269

NCTA membership required

► *Beautiful Penn's Woods*

▼ *Middle Falls at Letchworth State Park*



Allison Powell



Allison Powell

"I Don't Even Drive That Far" Trail Running on the FLT

Story and Photos by Eric Eagan

"I don't even drive that far" is a joke heard all too often by folks in the running community, but it might be something that is becoming true along the Finger Lakes Trail. There are now a number of races utilizing the Finger Lakes Trail, ranging from just under 7 miles at "Lucifer's Crossing" in the Ithaca area, to 40 miles at "Many On The Genny" using most of the Letchworth Trail, and all the way up to the 100 kilometer distance along the Bristol Hills Trail during the Twisted Branch Trail Run. Endurance athletes from all over the country are experiencing the Finger Lakes Trail in a unique way.

Scott Magee, the Race Director of "Twisted Branch," shared a quote from a runner who visited from Rhode Island to run his event. "With such varied terrain over the course, from rocks and roots to pine needles, technical single track to paved roads, muddy bogs to dusty gravel, steep inclines and declines to gentle rolls, it seems that regardless of one's personal running strength, it is guaranteed that most of the trail WON'T be that!" The trail is as unique as those who are racing on it as they push their limits and discover new places. Runners are recognizing just how much the trail offers them.

One of the criticisms trail runners often face is that they move too fast and never stop to enjoy nature the way hikers do. Michael Valone, 36, an ultra runner from Rochester, N.Y., disagrees, laughing as he says "There is plenty of walking on these days, and even more time stopping and taking photos and sharing with friends. Running just allows me to see more of it in a shorter amount of time."

Covering a distance as fast as you can is nothing new, but doing so on the Finger Lakes Trail has become pretty popular in the past few years with runners exploring and challenging themselves all over the state utilizing the trail for many different endurance related events.

Races, however, aren't the only way runners are using the FLT. In the process of preparing for these events, runners are spending hours on the trail putting in the training needed to handle the specific terrain the FLT throws at them. These events are not like road races though, so runners climb hills, cross creeks, and jump over fallen trees to practice. As they move as quickly as they can through the woods, the specifics of trail running come into play. While many runners train mostly on roads, there is no replacement for time on the trail says Chris O'Brien of Rochester. "... the point is there is no other way to simulate the roots, rocks, cadence and camber of a trail race. Plus, it's fun."

Time spent on the trail gives an appreciation for all the hard work put into building and maintaining and has turned many trail runners into trail workers. Dave Story, the Trail Steward Coordinator for #TrailsRoc in Rochester, has noticed an increase in runners joining work days on the trails. "I have seen runners who come out to help with a trail project take real pride in creating sustainable trails that will be a part of our community for many years. It's like a legacy to the sport they love."

In addition to races and training runs there is a new way that runners are challenging themselves on the FLT called *Fastest Known Times*, otherwise known as *FKTs*. That is, by following a specific set of rules runners take on a specific segment of trail whenever they want to try to become the fastest person ever to cover that terrain.

Jamie Hobbs, the current Letchworth Trail Record holder, is in the crowd that has mixed feelings about moving as fast as possible on any given day "The more I think about FKTs and what they are doing to the way we experience the wilderness the less I like them. I did Letchworth because I like the idea of challenging yourself to run hard outside the context of a race and because I like the idea of covering a complete trail end to end. I understand the desire to compare times over these kind of routes, but I'm starting to feel like the competition (on more coveted FKT routes) is placing too much importance on blasting through these places and not on appreciating and respecting the wilderness and other users."

Others disagree with Hobbs, often pointing out the FKT attempt is not just one single effort because these athletes have gone out to hike, scout, run, and enjoy that section of trail many times over a long period of time to appreciate the undertaking. Still it comes with the caveat that runners need to find a way to be respectful while enjoying the moment during these attempts.

Hobbs covered the 26 miles of the Letchworth Branch in 4:18:04 (more FKT information can be found at <https://trailmethods.com/regional-fkt-zone/>)



Sheila Eagan running in the Cayuga Trails 50 in Robert Treman State Park.

As runners are utilizing trails more it is important to remember that they come to the woods for many of the same reasons hikers, equestrians, and backpackers do, to find some time with nature. To smell the flowers, and feel the earth beneath their feet. They just tend to do these things a little bit faster than others.

Eric Eagan is an avid runner living in Rochester. When Eric is not running or writing about running, he is directing trail races, hiking the Adirondack mountains, or snowshoeing and fat tire biking the trails and hills of western N.Y. 🍁

Beth Barrese on the Letchworth Trail above the Genesee River



Steve Czajkowski

Our New VP Marketing And Membership

Steve is currently employed as Vice President of Market Research and Business Intelligence for Pathfinder Insights, a market research and marketing analytics firm headquartered in Orchard Park since 2016 when the company was purchased from him.

Pathfinder Insights was founded back in 1993 as Focused Marketing Associates, a market research company joined by Steve in 1998 in a part time capacity and subsequently purchased and run by Steve full time from 2011-2016. The name Pathfinder was chosen for the rebrand of the company in part due to Steve and his wife Beth's love of hiking.

Steve earned both his undergraduate degree in Finance ('94) as well as his MBA ('03) from Canisius College where he now teaches Marketing Analytics as an Adjunct Professor to undergraduate and graduate students. His wife Beth is a graduate of Cornell University ('97) and earned her MBA from St. Bonaventure in 2007.

Past experience includes 10 years at Fisher-Price, Inc. (2001-2011) where Steve served as Senior Manager of Analytics and Strategy in the Consumer Marketing department.

Steve and his wife Beth enjoy running, kayaking, challenging day hikes and a deep love for long distance hiking. Some of the more notable hikes they've done worldwide include The West Highland Way, The Great Glen Way, and The Speyside Way all in Scotland, The Cumbria Way and The Cotswold Way in England, The Bernese Oberland (Jungfrau region) in Switzerland, and The Salzkammergut in Austria.

At home in Springville, they also own property in Ellicottville where the FLT passes through and in Portageville where the Genesee Valley Greenway travels.

Steve and Beth are both outdoor evangelists loving nothing more than to experience time in the woods and hills with their three dogs, Howie, Annie, and Wiley. 🍁



Beth Czajkowski

Steve hiking in the United Kingdom, with Ben Nevis in the background, their highest mountain at 4400 feet.

Let's Go On A Dog Hike

Story and Photos by Peg Fuller, President Bullthistle Hiking Club

On Oct. 14, 2017, the Bullthistle Hiking Club had a wonderful day on the trail with lots of dogs and people. We hiked 3.2 miles on private property and on the FLT (Map M23) in South Otselic. The weather was mid-60s and no rain. We had 20 people (Claire, Leonard, Janet, Joann, Dennis, Jane, Nike, Joe, John, Rainer, Donna, Ariel, Pete, Barb, Anne, Ted, Suzin, Kalvyn, Abbie and Peg) and 13 dogs (Heidi, Layla, Cece, Friday, Dusty, Edie, Sam, Hanna, Pepper, Maddox, Stitch, Hoot and Tripp) out for an enjoyable hike. The initial meeting spot was Howard Johnson Hotel in Norwich. From there the hikers caravanned to the start location (Stage Rd, South Otselic). Parking and starting on members' private property allowed us to spend a few minutes letting the dogs run in a fenced area and everyone got to say hello before the hike began. We hiked groomed trails, uphill and down.

While on the private property some of the dogs ran off leash and happily followed the landowner dog, Tripp, exploring the property. We had some muddy spots, which I think dogs particularly enjoy. The leaves were just past peak, but we still had enjoyable views. We had several water breaks, especially for the dogs. There were also many breaks for cookies. I know the dogs enjoyed a few snacks and I think humans also had a snack break. We hiked part of the section of the FLT from Stage Road to Warner and crossed Warner Rd onto the FLT, hiking to the register box before turning back. The apple trees still had plenty of apples for people to enjoy. Once back to the start some hikers stayed for some snacks and hotdogs and hamburgers, allowing human and animal to relax.

So, what do you need to consider when hiking with a dog? A very important point is whether your dog has good recall. Will your dog come back to you when called and how fast? If you don't think your dog will return, then keep him or her on a leash. A lot of this quality depends upon the breed; for instance, beagles want to run after every interesting scent, nose to the ground, and have been known to go on week-long benders, while golden retrievers are so human-centered that they always come back soon.

On public land, rules vary but generally a leash is not required in state forests, while the dog has to be "under your control." In state parks where the trail goes, a leash is required except in Allegany State Park. County and municipal parks will each have their own rules, and it is your responsibility to know them. FLT Policy asks hikers to keep dogs leashed on private property for obvious reasons.

Also, hunting season is so important. You can equip your dog with safety equipment, such as a hunter orange vest, but consider the time of day and what type of hunting season it is. I will not hike in the woods off leash with my dogs during gun season, period. Bow season, I put safety vests on them.

What kind of the terrain should you pick for your dog hike? I have a dog who loves running water. He doesn't have the best recall. So his hikes are on leash. I know that hiking in an area with a running stream will result in very strong pulling. I have never taken him to a waterfall, but I imagine he would be pulling me across the terrain face down in complete bliss to get to the waterfall. I also have an elderly dog whom I would not take on an uphill hike. You don't want your dog pulling you and you don't want to pull him either. Remember this is for enjoyment. So my elderly dog doesn't go hiking because it is not what he enjoys anymore. With my water guy, I avoid cliffs that overlook creeks.

How about that weather? Well, my main hiking buddy hates the rain. So, it wouldn't make sense to set out when a thunderstorm is predicted. There are hiking recommendations when encountering a thunderstorm, but having a thunder phobic dog will just make things so much more difficult. We have cancelled planned dog hikes because a thunderstorm was predicted. Snow is also a consideration. There are many brands of boots available if you prefer to hike in extreme weather with your dog. Their paws are very sensitive and subject to both frost bite and burns from hot surfaces. If you enjoy snow shoeing, your dog may not if he must blaze the trail; it is hard work and he will tire quickly. Plus your



dog might need a coat. If you are hiking in extreme cold, invest in a good dog coat and boots...if you can get him to wear them.

Many times, dogs who are healthy can conquer terrain and distance that would surprise the owners. But I recommend starting with short hikes. Watch your dog for fatigue or any difficulties. Then back off, if necessary.

Have you considered food and water? You probably packed a snack for yourself and some water. So you have to pack for your dog, too. Collapsible water bowls are great to throw in your backpack. I bring dog biscuits but if I were hiking overnight or in excess of 8 hours, I would need to bring his meal, not just a snack. If you are filtering water for yourself, then you must filter it for your dog too. Parasites affect their stomachs, too. I day hike and carry bottles of water for my dogs.

So what might be issues with multiple dogs on a hike? If the dogs don't know each other, they might fight. If some dogs know each other and another dog doesn't, then it could become a pack mentality and they could gang up on the other dog. Also if one dog is very prey driven he may start the others off on an exploration that was not part of your plan.

The Bullthistle Hiking Club had a successful dog hike and we look forward to the next one. We have to give special thanks to Abbie Tamber for assisting with this hike. What more can you ask for but a dog trainer on a dog hike? I am already looking forward to the next dog hike! 🍁



FLT Fall Hike

Scott Brooks

The Finger Lakes Trail's annual "Erv Markert" hike, named after the FLT Trails Chair from the 1960s and 1970s, was held on Saturday, October 14th, 2017. The FLT sponsors one memorial hike each season, and this one was held in a series of state forests in Allegany County.

Scott Brooks, an FLT and Genesee Valley Hiking Club member from Rochester, planned and coordinated this hike which consisted of a short (4.8 mile) version and a long (11.4) mile version. Four hikers, led by Clay Johnson of the Genesee Valley Hiking Club, did the shorter hike while 12 hikers, led by Scott, completed the longer hike with sweeping duties performed by Kristin Schafer of the Triple Cities Hiking Club.

It was a perfect autumn day with warm temperatures and bright sunshine. Due to the recent dry weather, the fall colors were more muted than normal in this area, but the leaves were beautiful nonetheless. Both the long and short hikes traversed beautiful Bully Hill State Forest, where the trail follows a lovely creek. Shortly before reaching Bush Road, hikers stopped to check out the newly built Bully Hill Lean-to where we enjoyed a snack break.

The short hike ended at the Bush Rd. trail head, but the long hike continued through Klipnocky, Gas Springs and Slader Creek State Forests. The hikers paused again to enjoy the views of the pond and camp site just off of Bill Morris Road. The hike ended with a welcome downhill

walk through cow pastures with pretty views of the surrounding hills before ending at Slader Creek Road.

Thank you to all who participated in this hike. There were many hikers from the Genesee Valley Hiking Club, but there were hikers from the Binghamton area as well. We all decided that Theresa and Jay Evans, who live in the Syracuse area, had the longest drive that day. It was a pleasure hiking with you all. 🍁



Janet Bernecky

We got to visit the brand new Bully Hill Lean-to.

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

New Hikers to finish the Main Trail:

#434 Thane Bilodeau, Homer
#435 Donna Coon 2nd time (#333 April 2012), Gilbertsville
#436 Bruce Coon 2nd (#335 May 2012), Gilbertsville
#437 Tom Dinse, Fairport
#438 LJ Freitag, Horseheads
#439 Carole Tota, Alpine
#440 Eileen Loh-Frontier, Penn Yan
#441 Mike Schlicht, Buffalo
#442 Mark Petrie, Vestal

Branch Trails:

#106 Paul Good (#376 on Main Trail), Horseheads
#107 Kathy Good (#377), Horseheads

Updates:

Melissa Cohen is close to finishing the branch trails. Nick Novell and his daughter Grace plan to finish the branch trails in four years. If so she would be the youngest to do so. Henry Abbink (E2E # 331) and Roger Ashworth (E2E # 268) have been diligently working on the branch trails the past few years. Eva Capobianco plans to hike the main trail. Jason T. Stack-Moehrle wants to break the 23-day record set by Joe Dabes' #4 hike (of 10). Note: the trail is about 25 miles longer now and has fewer road hikes. Cortland College student Jeremy Collins plans to hike the main trail during his four years at school.

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

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

New Car Spotters:

Kelly McNeill of Rochester (has a camp near Keuka Lake and is very familiar with the trail maps M12-15.)
Dave and Carol Burnett of Freeville are long time FLT supporters. They will spot M18-19. Telephone only.
While we always need car spotters, we are in MOST need for who

live near Maps M1-5 and M28-33, on the Crystal Hills Trail and, the Interloken Trail. Foothills Hiking Club continues to assist hikers on the Conservation 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.) 🍁

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



◀ #442 Mark Petrie taken by Chuck Uttech, his car spotter



▶ #439 Carole Tota and #438 LJ Freitag taken during the Ulster County hike series.

Jacqui Wensich



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

Hesse Lean-To

Peter Wybron, Photos by Mike Granger

On Saturday September 30th the existing rotting and leaking roof on the Hesse Lean-to was removed and replaced with a new metal roof. The project was completed with help from members of the Hesse family and the FLT. Lumber and metal roofing paid for by the FLTC were delivered to the home of Doug Hesse on South River Road in the Town of Portage. Doug then transported the materials, with the use of his tractor, to the job site. On the day of the build, tools were carried in to the site by Bruce Hesse and his ATV.

Here is a little history on this section of trail and lean-to. On Map M7, just east of the Genesee River, the late Bruce Hesse granted permission for the FLT to cross his property, which was part of the original section of trail founded by Wally Wood which extended from Portageville to North Hornell. A memorial honoring Wally Wood is located where the trail crosses the Hesse property next to the lean-to. An easement was granted to the FLTC by Bruce, protecting the trail and lean-to forever. Bruce with the help of his family built the lean-to over 20 years ago with materials salvaged from old barns and railroad ties.

Today the Hesse family continues to care for the land that Bruce so loved. This can be seen by the support and turn-out of the family for this roof project. There were three generations of Hesse family members who helped: Bruce D. Hesse, the son of the late Bruce Hesse, his two sons Doug and Neil, and their sons, Douglas, Patrick, and Corbin. The remainder of the crew was made up of members of the FLT, Mike Granger, Bob Emerson, and Peter Wybron.

With the new roof in place, hikers will have a dry shelter to use, hopefully for the next 30 years thanks to Bruce Hesse and his family.



Two younger Hesses at left, Neil and Doug, were some of the grandchildren this was built for.



The Genesee Valley Hiking Club originally marked miles with signs like these, counting eastward from the Genesee River. One of their members was a shop teacher and stamped the numbers and letters on copper bands. Many of these signs have been rerouted around, so are no longer on the trail, but there are a few still visible between the river and Swain, plus another still on the trail on M9. Photographer unknown.



Gifts In Memory of

Harold Finley

from

Helen Bicknell

Jane Buchanan

Linda Deckert

Mark & Sandra Dowling

Jonathan Gross

Trixie Meteyer

Thomas & Barbara Miller

Marilyn Templeton

Twisted Branch Trail Run

Jeff Darling

2017 was the third year of the Twisted Branch 100K Trail Run. We caught up with race director, Scott Magee, to learn about this annual race from Naples to Hammondsport.

What was the inspiration for the race?

The inspiration came from many places. Organizations like Goose Adventure Racing have been organizing outstanding, challenging trail races since 2000. The sport of ultramarathon trail running has seen tremendous growth, but the spotlight is seemingly always on the west coast. However, my biggest inspiration for the race was the Bristol Hills Trail. I've been hiking and running on this trail since I was in high school. I have hiked the trail end to end a few times, but it wasn't until 2010 when I decided to run the trail. With the support of my family, I ran the Bristol Hills. I ran it again the following year. It wasn't until my second attempt that the idea really began to sink in.

I had never managed a race before. I had no idea how I would accomplish my goal. I wanted to highlight these beautiful trails. I wanted more people to see what I saw. If I did it right, if I could help the local trail running, national ultra running community to experience this trail, then the race could aid in allowing the Bristol Hills to be around for another 50 years. Today we have runners coming from all over the US & Canada to challenge themselves and see what this trail is all about.

Where did the name come from?

The name Twisted Branch comes from the trail name. The race course follows the Bristol Hills (used to be Branch) Trail. For those who are not familiar with the Bristol Hills, the trail's southern terminus is on a small, abandoned end of Ferris Road, just outside of Hammondsport. This is no place to host a proper ultramarathon finish line.

We spent months searching for a way to link the branch trail into the village of Hammondsport. The village preferred we kept to the outside of town, avoiding busy and congested summer roads. This led us to using the main trail (Map M12) which would take us another 6 miles to Winding Stairs Rd. In coordination with the Friends of Hammondsport Area Trails, we revitalized the Triad Trail. This small spur trail deposits its users onto Champlin Beach Park at the southern tip of Keuka Lake. In the end, the Twisted Branch Trail Run became a run on a "branch" trail run, with a "twist."

How does trail running differ from hiking?

Trail running has many similarities to hiking. In fact, ultra races could be considered really fast, supported, thru hikes. Trail runners enjoy trails in much the same way hikers do. Both are looking for a chance to connect with nature by repeatedly placing one foot in front of the other. Runners are just covering more ground in a shorter amount of time. Races offer runners a way to challenge themselves while providing hydration and calories at intervals along the way. Twisted Branch exposes many runners to sections of the FLT that they may never have found on their own.

4:00 AM start? Midnight finish?

How do they run on trails in the dark?

Paces begin relatively slowly as all runners make their way along dark trails at the 4:00 AM start. Each participant begins with a head lamp and those finishing after sundown turn their light back on after 7:00 PM. Over two thousand temporary reflective flags are placed on the 65 mile course. Special attention is placed upon each turn. Three flags are placed just prior to a turn, two flags directly after a turn and a single flag beckons in the distance. These reflective flags serve as beacons, leading runners southward down the trail. Sweepers run the course, post race, to collect all the signs and flags.

The course record was broken this year. Do you foresee someone able to run the course in under 10 hours?

The variation of pace is dramatic. There is a twenty hour cutoff for finishers, but the front of the pack is moving at a 9:00 minute per mile pace. This course demands respect. The variety of terrain, coupled with over 22,000 feet in elevation change, makes it very challenging. Simply finishing is quite an accomplishment. As the race continues to grow in popularity beyond our region, we do foresee ever faster times. Jim Sweeney finished in 10:14 this year. It will take an amazing effort, from a gifted athlete, to finish in under 10 hours. There are folks who can do it. Jim believes he can, and plans on returning.

What are some of the challenges the race has faced over its first three years?

One of the challenging logistics of the race involves the speed of the runners. Blazes and turns are easily missed while keeping your eyes on the toe grabbing roots and rocks underfoot. Donna



Ron Heerkens Jr.

At the start of the race, it's still dark!

Noteware has gone out of her way to make sure trail maintainers have had new, orange paint to freshen blazes on this branch trail. However, runners' eyes are increasingly focused downward, especially in the dark. Significant time has been spent clearing every road crossing of brush and long grasses to aid in navigation. We also had two infamous cornfields in which runners became temporarily disoriented. One of these cornfield routes has been moved along a hedgerow and another is about to be put into the woods.

How has the community reacted to the race?

My favorite, and perhaps least expected, part of organizing the Twisted Branch Trail Run has been the collaboration with many organizations and individuals who surround the FLT.

Chauncy Young and the Victor Hiking Trails organization has volunteered to run our first full aid station just outside of Naples, feeding and caring for runners from 4am to 7am.

David Oliver may be one of the most instrumental individuals we encountered early on in our race planning. He helped us to shape the race as we know it as the trail exits Mitchellsville Gorge and cuts up the steep switchbacks of Mt. Washington. He also leads the Hammondsport Friends of Area Trails and Parks and was responsible for reviving the Triad trail, just in time for our first race in 2015. Dave is also our aid station captain at our final aid station, which closes at 9pm. Dave supports each and every one of the tired runners. Some call him the "Mayor of Urbana," if only for the night.

Runners have Donna Noteware to thank for the 11 aid stations along the way. Donna was a key partner who understands the race's needs and matched that with her knowledge and incredible landowner relationships along the trail. Donna and other trail sponsors engaged and introduced our organization to the likes of Ed & Mary Loesch, Brian Ville, Jan Cranch and Bud Valley Campground, all private landowners who are proud to share their



Michael Lesher

A solo runner near Patch Road

land with the FLT and have become landmark locations for the Twisted Branch.

What are the future goals for the race?

Twisted Branch will continue to partner with FLT, maintaining and improving the Bristol Hills Trail. Of particular interest are three road sections, each more than a mile long. We'll keep looking for opportunities to reroute the trail into the beautiful fields and forests surrounding Naples, Prattsburgh and Hammondsport. We anticipate an increase in trail use and support for the trail by the running community. Runners are quickly learning what a treasure the FLT is. It is our belief that the FLT will quickly learn that runners are an valuable asset, as well.

To find out more about this race, check out Twisted Branch's website, www.twistedbranch.com or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. 🍁

Join the FLT Yahoo Groups E-Mail List

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference's e-mail list is a discussion group hosted by yahoo groups.com. Its purpose is to allow the subscribers (approximately 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@yahoo groups.com and follow the instructions for subscribing. If you have any problems or questions, contact one of the co-moderators.

An Unlikely Trail Angel Saves the Day

Story and Photos by Mike Schlicht #441

Thanks to his friend Skippy (Real or Imagined)

In the summer of 2011, Lynda Rummel, the late Gerry Benedict and I met near Mitchellsville to go over the plans for the Bean Station Bridges Alley Cat one last time before students from the Rochester Institute of Technology arrived to assist in the project later in the week. At the end of our day, there was enough daylight to knock off another 12 miles of the main trail so I asked Lynda if she could spot me which she graciously agreed to do. I dropped my car off at Knight Settlement Road and hopped in for the short drive up Rt. 13. Before long the Finger Lakes Trail sign appeared before me, the green highway signs that are common in Steuben County.

As soon as Lynda drove off I had the eerie feeling something wasn't right. One thing I noticed right away was that there was parking available for a car that was opposite from what I recalled seeing on the map. I also felt I should be hiking in a southwesterly direction back to my car but for some odd reason to this day that I can't explain, I decided to trust what I was "seeing" on the map and started hiking north. I know it was hot out that day so maybe I was dehydrated and didn't realize it but off I went. The map said I should see a register and didn't, but those are easy to pass if you aren't looking right at them. Next up was Granma's Campsite, but I never saw that either. Before long, I came to a dirt road and knew something was really wrong. Just then a rusty old pickup truck came along and I flagged the driver down and asked him if he could tell me where I was on the map. He looked at it and stated that he couldn't and drove off.

At this point the only thing I could think of was hiking back to the road where I started and using it to get back to my car. Meanwhile the guy in the pickup didn't go far and stopped about ¼ mile away. He turned around and came back to where I was standing and asked for that map again as he took a drink from the beer can on the console. He then said "you're here" and pointed to empty space above the map. I then saw the orange blazes by me and realized what was wrong. I was hiking on the Bristol Hills Trail! I was so accustomed to seeing orange blazes hiking on the Conservation Trail that I never thought twice about it. I looked at the map and asked him if he could drive me "here" pointing to the where the white-blazed main trail also intersects Rt. 13 and offered him ten dollars to do so. He agreed only if he could drink while he drove. At that point knowing it was going to be a 15 mile hike back to my car if I said no, I said it was okay and off we went. I haven't a clue what back roads he took but as we drove by a dirt road to his left, he said that "Skippy lives down there."

I'm not sure who "Skippy" was but I couldn't have cared less as long as I got to the right trailhead safely. A few moments later we passed by a house and he then stated "Skippy lives there." I was somewhat amused as there might be a lot of people named Skippy out there or we drove down the street we passed a few moments earlier which I didn't think we did. Somehow we got back to Rt. 13, but he turned the wrong way. When I was able to convince him of this, he then turned around in the direction I knew would take us to the white blazed main trailhead. We drove for a few miles looking for the trailhead and all of the sudden he veered across the road heading towards a guy on a riding lawnmower





and drove right on the lawn to stop next to him. He asked the guy if he knew where the “that Finger Lakes Trail is” as the guy on the lawnmower pointed to the yellow FLTC sign a few hundred feet away. Apparently he knew the guy, but this wasn’t “the” Skippy or “a” Skippy as I happily gave him the ten dollars which he refused. I can’t tell you how quickly I got out of the pickup truck and bounded up the trail as fast as I could this time going the right way...along a white blazed trail. It was practically dark when I got back to my car and knew this would be the saga I would tell when I completed the trail someday.

This past October Lynda graciously spotted me on the 7th and 8th as I knocked off the last 34 miles I had to complete to become an E2E’r. When we got to Maple Lane, I jokingly kidded around with her to make sure I was at the right spot but Lynda quickly pulled out the map to verify what we saw at the trailhead. I was happy to see white blazes instead of orange which was an improvement for me this time.

There are so many people to thank who helped make my E2E possible. First, I would like to thank Quinn and Shoki. Quinn is on his quest to complete his second E2E and partnering with him helped me catch over 300 miles of trail in 2016/2017. In 2009, I spent a lot of time on the trail with Susan Collier from whom I learned a lot about science and her work at Kodak as a scientist. Without spotters (aka Trail Angels), it would be extremely difficult to complete our fine trail. My appreciation goes out to the following folks whose names might jog some memories as I started my E2E in 2008: Lynda Rummel, Steve Garrett, Richard and Pat Shamrock, Gary Brouse, Claudia Lawler, David

DeLeon, Stan Benedict and Peg Fuller. Without all of you willing to dedicate some time this trek would not have been possible. Last but not least is the guy in the pickup truck and his friend(s) Skippy. It was amazing how alert and clearheaded I got when I realized how much of a jam I was in and what it took to get safely to the right trailhead. Without you, whoever you might be, I got back just before darkness set and learned to question my instincts a lot more while out on the trail. Special thanks to “Skippy” too, even if you were only a figment of someone’s imagination, real or imagined, for a few beers. 🍁

Mike, you’re hardly the first one to mistake those two trail crossings on CR 13 near Mitchellsville. One time two of us were going to meet Connie at “that trailhead” to work on my section of the Bristol Hills Trail but Connie parked at the white trail crossing and spent the day tidying somebody else’s trail, wondering where we were. Another time I caught up with a bunch of people who not only had passed a sign at the trailhead that the trail up ahead was closed for hunting season, but they were also following orange blazes even though the Passport booklet map they were using said they should have been on white blazes. THEIR car was parked far away, too. Whew.

Both crossings of CR 13 show on Map B3 but only the main trail crossing shows on Map M12.

Editor

McGraw Bridge Project, FLT Map M20

Mary Coffin, Project Coordinator and Cheerleader, ADK - Onondaga Chapter

Thanks to a new landowner we were able to move trail off road and reestablish trail that had been closed and overgrown for more than eight years. Rick Williams, who recently purchased the property, was most supportive of the trail and permitted us to reconnect Underwood Hill Road to Baker School House State Forest. This trail is both Finger Lakes Trail and North Country National Scenic Trail so we were delighted to move it off road once again.

This reopened trail section, although on private land, included a NYS DEC-protected trout stream that required a bridge and of course a DEC permit. The former bridge was long gone. So we applied to the DEC for the required permit. Ken Kaufman, a retired engineer and frequent ADK volunteer, drew up the design and materials list. DEC accepted our plan for a 28 foot long x 30 inch wide bridge. It is supported by two three-ply 2"x 12" beams, bolted together and sturdy indeed. We could not get a good delivered price on utility poles so made these laminated beams. Rock-filled cribs supported each end, and one end was cabled to a big cottonwood so that no flood will sweep it away.

We had eleven volunteers up to this task, each helping to plan our strategy, obtain bids and materials and furnish personal tools and construction expertise. It was truly a cooperative team project. All I had to do was organize the crew and stand back as cheerleader.

Photos by Mary Coffin

ADK-Onondaga was the recipient of a grant from Cooper Industries which was designated for local trail projects. This grant funded the \$1,200 cost for materials (lumber and hardware). So we were able to build it without FLT or NCTA funds.

Our appreciation goes to the permitting landowner, DEC, ADK-ON volunteers and Cooper Industries, all of whom supported this project. The result is a 28-foot-long, sturdy, well-designed foot bridge. Thanks to all for a job well done. 🍁



Treated 2x12 boards were bolted together into a massive pair of three-board laminated beams.

This article was previously published in the North Country Trail Association magazine, North Star.

Student Trail Work

Story and Photos by Colleen Betrus

On Sunday, 10/8, fifteen Naples Central School (NCS) students, members of the Outdoor Adventures class, taught by Mr. Jon Betrus, and National Honor Society, advised by Mrs. Colleen Betrus, participated in a trail maintenance activity. Students worked on a section of the Bristol Hills branch of the Finger Lakes Trail that starts at West Hill Preserve on Seman Rd. and ends just above Bob's & Ruth's restaurant in Naples.

Earlier this year, Mr. Gideon Hanggi built a bridge across a small gully on his property to provide a better way for hikers to cross. To ensure the bridge's longevity, NCS students helped insert a culvert pipe near the new foot bridge. This culvert will help divert water away from the new bridge. Students dug room for the pipe, found stones to make a base, and graded the area for hikers. The students had the pleasure of working with Stephen Lewandowski, Mark Hopkins (Springwater Hiking Group), and Donna Noteware (Finger Lakes Trail).



Digging a trench for a drainage pipe to get water off the trail.



Rock assembly line to "pave" the approach to the bridge.

Naples students have helped maintain other sections of the Finger Lakes Trail throughout the last four years. In the past, students have volunteered to clean various sections of the trail in the surrounding Naples area, such as sections in Hi Tor. Students also helped build steps near another footbridge on the trail on Parrish Hill last year. Students can use these volunteer hours toward their community service requirements as honor students or for senior privileges. The group looks forward to another trail maintenance day in the spring. 🍁

New Moss Hill Lean-to: The Rest of the Story

Lynda Rummel

Dedicated to the Dogs Who Hike with Us: The Whole Story

FLTC VP-Trail Quality, RTC Bath-Watkins Glen, Section Sponsor (Maintainer), South Bradford – Monterey/Sexton Hollow Rd. (M 13)

When Howard Beye, past Vice President of Trail Management, left us in September of 2008, I was deep in the woods, driving in loads of puncheon wood on my 2007 Kawasaki Mule, along a section of old Moss Hill Rd. across Cotton-Hanlon forest production property to sites along the North Country National Scenic Trail/Finger Lakes Trail between the Moss Hill Lean-to and the hamlet of South Bradford in Steuben County (Maps M 13, CH 1). For the Recreational Trails Program grant that I had written to relocate and improve the FLT/NCNST in South Bradford State Forest, Howard was listed as the grant administrator and I was the “Radar” (remember M.A.S.H.?) who made it happen on the ground. As I drove back into the woods after learning of Howard’s passing, I remember suddenly stopping the Mule and, saying out-loud and directly to Howard, “We’re still here. We’re still working away. We won’t quit.” August 18, 2017, as I drove the Mule out on that same woods road at the completion of a project that included hauling in the lumber for a brand-new timber frame lean-to using a trailer towed behind the Mule, I spoke those words to Howard once again: “We’re still here. We’re still working away.”

And, indeed we were. “We” were an Alley Cat construction crew and support team that involved two kids and 15 adults, including the neighboring landowner, a saw mill operator, and a forester at Cotton-Hanlon, who all conspired to tear down the old, asphalt-shingled, pine-log Moss Hill Lean-to being eaten by powder dust beetles that left thousands of tiny holes and wee piles of powdery sawdust beneath them, both inside and out, and build a beautiful new timber-framed, hemlock-sided, metal-roofed shelter to replace it. Along the way, the crew salvaged the roof planks and floor boards from the old lean-to and converted them into a wood shed and small table, cut up and split the old lean-to logs into fire wood, armored the base of the existing DEC-built outhouse with flashing to thwart the porcupines from getting to the glue in the plywood, painted the outhouse inside and out twice, and felled one very tall, dead hemlock. And oh yes... hauled in all the lumber, fastenings, and equipment about 1.75 miles using the Mule, an FLTC-owned narrow Nova Jack trailer towed behind it, and a big, circa 1998 ATV, built a bird house shaped like a lean-to, and converted a couple of the notched log corners into totem figures stationed at the edges of the stone patio that surrounds the cleaned-up fire ring. And of course, hauled out all the trash.

Project Manager Bill Meehan, a freshly retired DEC Ranger AND a local trail sponsor, and I began hauling in the lumber on August 8th and got all of it in as far as a steep-sided creek that cuts across the old road near the shelter site by late on the 9th. This could be accomplished only because neighboring landowner, Linn Simpson, stepped in to help lift and off-load the longer and heavier pieces. Linn also allowed us to get to the staging area via Van Fleet Rd., the end of which had been gated years ago when the local Town refused to maintain the road. August 11th, Bill, Dave Newman and his son, Peter, carried the foundation lumber across the barrier creek to the construction area. The rest of the crew, led by Construction Manager, Mike Ogden,

arrived at our cabin at the Watson Homestead on the 13th, for the first of several scrumptious meals prepared by Jacqui Wensich, who had set up her own “chuck wagon” beside the cabin. The morning of the 14th, the crew regrouped where Linn’s property and the northern end of Van Fleet Rd. meet the southeastern end of old Moss Hill Rd., then walked in to the work site, and while some laid out the foundation of the new lean-to, others shouldered the remaining materials across the barrier gully. The crew then split into three groups, and soon the asphalt roof was being torn off by one, foundation timbers were being laid by another, and the green growth on the outside of the plywood sides of the outhouse was being sprayed with mildew/mold inhibitor, in preparation for fresh paint, by the third.

The new lean-to was constructed in a record-breaking 2.5 days, about the same time it took to tear down the old and dispose of its parts. The outhouse took a little longer, since the paint coats had to be given time to dry. On the 16th, Bill Meehan and I stayed on to work on the outhouse and welcome our first overnight camper, a Mennonite hiker named Ben, from Slate Rock, Penna., who was out for a week on the FLT. I returned on the 17th and 18th, to add more coats of paint and the trim to the small screened windows. As I was finally finishing, a 53-year-old hiker named Bill, from Canadice, N.Y., our second solo overnighter, arrived, just in time to help me put the last load in the Mule. On the way out, I visited with the couple renovating their small cabin on the Cotton-Hanlon parcel and carried out some trash for them. Finally, I loaded the Mule onto my trailer. As I passed through the gate, my trailer rattled and squeaked loudly with the familiar sound of carrying the Mule out of the woods, which prompted me to say, “Don’t worry, Howard, we’ll be back.”

Jacqui Wensich was the genius behind the funding for this replacement lean-to. Jacqui came up with the idea and, on her own initiative, launched the campaign to raise the necessary money. Jacqui knew that other FLT-ers who hiked with dogs would contribute gladly to a project that recognized the security and companionship that dogs



Jackson "Jet" Thomas

The old log shelter, riddled with beetles reducing it to sawdust, alas.

provide. The long-planned Moss Hill Lean-to rebuild was selected to be the “doggie shelter” that honors the dogs who hike with us, and by the end of the project, a large plaque with the names of the contributors and their dogs and a small bulletin board with photos of some of them, had been installed inside the north wall. If **you** have an idea to raise money for the trail you love to hike, please contact us via www.fingerlakestrail.org.

And if you think dogs cannot help with protection, consider Gummy, normally a quiet sissy dog of mine. In the Catskills we hiked together, before she was even totally out of puppyhood, and when wolves or coyotes howled from the last ridge we had crossed that day, well above our campsite, she moved CLOSER to me, the big brave hairball. But a couple years later I was on the Appalachian Trail in Maryland, staying at a nice shelter with several young hikers. We had no idea that a road was nearby until we heard loud drunken laughter coming down a side trail toward us in the dark. Gummy gave out with an uncharacteristic loud menacing growl, and the drunken voices apologized and practically ran back away from us. Gummy was hailed as our hero. Editor. 🍁



Bob Emerson

Pete and Colleen Townsend in front of the new shelter. They were honored with the Benedict Award for Alley Cat workers this spring.



Bob Emerson

Front row, left to right, Kenny Fellers, Sarah Gravino, Mike Ogden, Colleen Stapleton. Standing behind them Dave Newman, Steve Marshall in rear, Don Sutherland, Pete Stapleton, Bill Meehan, Ethan Gravino, and Kaiden Ruiz. Missing from picture is Lynda Rummel, who is still working on her danged crapper.



Lynda Rummel

Hemlock posts milled by Mahlon, carried in to the site on our Nova Jack trailer, and pulled by Lynda's Mule.

A very special family among our project contributors is the Mahlon Hurst family, here pictured by Bob Emerson with their permission. While some Mennonites don't like their picture taken, this family agreed, and we are grateful for that. Mahlon the father and his daughter Sarah are end-to-enders #'d 242 and 244, respectively, and it should be noted that they had to pay drivers to take them across the state for each hike segment! Mahlon is a true horse-and-buggy Mennonite whose sawmill has produced many loads of lumber for our bridges and shelters; there, too, a driver has to be paid to transport the milled lumber.

In addition, Mahlon has made the trail familiar to his community, with the happy result that many Mennonite families are enjoying a walk on our trail many Sunday afternoons.



Bob Emerson

Norman, baby Norleen, Chris and Sarah, and Eleanor and Mahlon, parents of Sarah.

Trail Topics: Trail Maintenance

ITEMS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE COLUMN FOR A VP OF TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Material below would have been part of the quarterly column from our Vice President of Trail Maintenance, but once again we are without one. To keep things rolling, many of the functions of this VP have been shared with assistants so that the job has become more administrative and less heavy on detail. So, now that it's easier, please consider volunteering to Quinn Wright for this board officer position.

Chainsaw Certification

The FLTC requires that anyone operating a chainsaw go through our certification course, and those using crosscut saws would benefit, too, from learning safe ways to fell trees or cut through tangled messes. May 5-6 and May 19-20, both sessions in Hammondsport. Questions? Contact Marty Howden with questions. Howser51@yahoo.com

We have adopted the same policy as the North Country Trail Association, which requires chainsaw recertification every three years, the same training as the original certification. That involves two eight-hour days of hands-on training that requires the sawyer to show his or her proficiency in handling a chainsaw in a safe manner.

The FLTC also requires our sawyers to have current certification in CPR and First Aid, now good for two years. We also require that each sawyer wears the proper UL approved personal protective equipment, which includes chaps, logging helmet, and eye and hearing protection. We try to provide the PPE as long as we have funding. The helmets should be changed out every five years, and the chaps when they get compromised.

Marty Howden

Trail Sponsor Needed

A special spot along our trail is the 45-acre property donated to the FLTC by John Cobb on Map M4, east of Ellicottville, Cattaraugus County, off highway NY 242. There is a nearly two-mile loop on the property that includes main trail and more just for fun and to get to the top of the hill to a campsite. Chris File had just adopted that spot a little over a year ago but now has an aggressive cancer, so just plain doesn't know if he'll be able to continue next spring or not. So we would like to line up a volunteer to tend that property, perhaps only for the interim, perhaps permanently. To volunteer, please contact Irene Szabo at treeweenie@aol.com.

Long-time trail sponsor Pete Nye has decided to give up the section he maintained for years on Map M13, between Access 3, Aulls Rd., and Access 4, the hamlet of South Bradford. The stretch is 5.4 miles long. About 4.4 miles is off-road trail on level or gently climbing state forest (Birdseye Hollow SF) or rural wooded lands or abandoned old dirt roadway. About 1/2 mile is on seasonal

road, and 1/2 mile is on paved highway that requires only minimal blazing. All is on the route of the NCNST. The easily accessible section is 15 minutes east of Hammondsport, on both sides of NYS 226, north of Savona and NY 17/I-86. The north end of the section is about 1/2 mile south of Steuben County's Birdseye Hollow Day Park. A very nice section, so grab it while you can! Contact Regional Trail Coordinator Lynda Rummel at ljrassoc@roadrunner.com

Annual Trail Census

To: All FLT Volunteers

On Behalf of Scott Brooks, Census Taker

It's time, again, to submit our volunteer hours for the annual census. We are using the same on-line form as we've now used for the past several years. Submitting the amount of time you've work for the trail is very important. The total documents the volunteer time and effort we have expended to maintain this foot trail across New York State to federal, state, and county officials, NYS public land managers, the North Country Trail Association, the National Park Service, our members, donors, auditors and potential funders, and the public. And it helps us get grants and keep the trail for foot-travel only. Please do not under-report your hours! Thank you in advance for submitting your volunteer hours by January 31, 2018 using the census form that can be accessed at www.fltconference.org/trail/members1/volunteer-trail-workers/trail-council/census/.

You are reminded that your hours need to be reported separately for private and public lands, and if public, separate those by administrative agency, for instance a state park, or perhaps multiple state forests, in which case those hours have to be kept separately BY FOREST. There are also several kinds of work that should be reported:

1. Trail Work (maintenance and construction)
2. Administration (meetings, office work, writing, editing, accounting, etc)
3. Interpretation & Outreach (promotion, education, leading hikes, brochure development, car shuttling, etc.)
4. General Resource Work (GIS/GPS work, mapping, planning, land protection/acquisition)
5. Training (construction, maintenance, safety, sawyer, etc.)

Travel hours count, too, as do meetings for trail topics! Do not count hours spent on an Alley Cat project, for instance, since those hours are reported already by your project manager.

This year Scott will be gathering all of the census information and sharing it with all involved public agencies and other reporting needs, something the VP of Trail Maintenance used to do.

Fall Trail Caretaker Meetings

Every fall there are two regional trail caretaker meetings, in Bath and Springwater this year to the west, while last year they were in Virgil and Bainbridge in the east. They strive to be educational and informative, sharing tools and news. For instance, this year we discussed facilities we provide at shelters, such as outdoor toilets and fire rings that aim to be useable by those of ANY level of mobility who manage to get themselves into the woods. Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews and Construction, offered information as to what standards of accessibility a back country trail like ours needs to adhere to, as well as those we don't.

Dave Newman, VP of Trail Preservation, shared some of the heart-warming easement successes of the last year, encouraging trail workers to keep the topic alive before landowners. As always, we reviewed the nature of our permissions with landowners and passed out handouts that we can share with landowners in an attempt to answer their questions about both very basic trail permissions and easements, too. Those of us who are part of the Travelin' Trainin' Team appreciate the good turn-out at each meeting. 🍁



Irene Szabo

Don Bergman and Jeanne Moog have agreed to be regional trail coordinators for the westernmost main trail (Maps M1-4) and the whole Conservation Trail, for which many of us are grateful.

Trail Topics: Respecting Landowners

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

Introduction: Last issue, I described some “rude behaviors” that could negatively impact our relationship with landowners. This issue, guest author Mary Coffin reminds us to send any concerns about rural crop, animal, or timber practices directly to the FLTC. Thanks, Mary! Lynda

Respecting Landowners

By Guest Author **Mary Coffin**

Member, FLT Travelin' Training Team and ADK-Onondaga Chapter; Team Leader for Extending the NCNST through the ADK

As hikers on the FLT, we are guests of the hosting landowners, both public and private.

About 50% of the trail is hosted on private land, much of which is rural farm land and timber forests. Experienced hikers are used to observing normal timber and agricultural processes as they hike. However, occasionally a novice hiker may misinterpret a logging operation, crop or land use, or animal management practice which may in fact be standard and acceptable.

If a hiker believes he has observed any problem along the trail, it should be reported not to the landowner or other authority or agency but directly to the FLTC headquarters. Please report any perceived or serious trail problems or conditions *directly* to the FLTC at trailreport@fltconference.org. Instructions for reporting can be found at: <http://www.fltconference.org/trail/go-hiking/trail-conditions/how-report-trail-conditions/> Or call the FLT Service Center in Mount Morris at (585)658-9320.

Hikers may also encounter landowners near the trail, and if so, please take the time to thank them for hosting the trail, since without their generosity, we would have no trail. Without supportive, generous landowners we would not have off-road trail and access to some of the most scenic venues across New York. Dangerous road walks are the alternative.

So please be prudent, respectful of landowner rights, and thankful for their generosity in allowing us – people they don't even know! -- to experience some of the most beautiful and interesting places in the state. 🍁

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

Trail Topics: 2018 Alley Cat Projects

Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews & Construction

In 2018 we have planned four Alley Cat projects that will replace the Kimmie Lean-to in Robinson Hollow State Forest, construct a new lean-to in Darien Lake State Park, reroute trail southeast of Danby, and extend switchbacks in South Bradford State Forest.

Map M18: Kimmie Lean-To, east of Ithaca

The Kimmie Lean-to is one of the few structures that are dedicated to an individual. Kimmie was an infant who passed from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome before her first year. A plaque dedicated to her memory exists in the current lean-to and will be relocated to the new structure upon completion. The existing lean-to will be deconstructed by the Alley Cat crew per requirements laid out by the DEC.

Current FLTC policy is that lean-tos and other structures can be “in memory of” a person and a plaque will be placed on the structure of the name(s) of those being memorialized. The family of Kimmie still maintains the trail that the current lean-to resides on and has already volunteered to assist in building the new structure when scheduled.

Project Manager: Paul Warrender

Construction Manager: TBA

Map CT8: Darien Lake State Park Lean-To, western Genesee County, southeast of Buffalo

The Darien Lake Lean-to is being funded by an anonymous donation that has requested its placement within the park. An existing lean-to was built by Boy Scouts many years ago, is in a wet area, and not easily accessed from the trail through the park. At this time, no plans are being made to deconstruct the existing structure. Probable mid-May project.

Project Manager: Dave Potzler

Construction Manager: Mike Granger

Maps M 17/18: Durfee Hill and Coddington Road Trail Reroutes, south of Ithaca

The DEC has offered to host the trail on state owned property that will eliminate a short road walk on Rt. 96B south of Danby, and a steep road walk along Heisey Road. The new trail would be located on the west side of the property and switchback up the hill to a nice ridge where it would intersect with Durfee Hill Road. From here, a short set of stairs will be constructed to navigate up a small hill to the next set of switchbacks to the top of the hill and in the direction of an existing trail easement. The reroute will require us to cut a trail through some very dense vegetation just after crossing Rt. 96B for about ¼ mile before we enter some extremely desirable trail that has great drainage and should be a pleasure to hike along.

A second part of this project will be to build a second series of switchbacks that will take us up from Coddington Road on Map M17 towards the same easement.

At the present time this project does not have a Project or Construction Manager. If you would like to volunteer for one or both roles, please send an email to me at pageazi@yahoo.com



Mike Schlicht

Mike Schlicht at Guadalupe Peak, highest point in Texas.

Map M13: South Bradford State Forest Switchbacks, southeast of Bath

A series of switchbacks will be built between Dennis and Monterey Roads in South Bradford State Forest to alleviate a steep climb for hikers. This will be a short term Alley Cat project not expected to take more than a few days.

At the present time this project does not have a Project or Construction Manager. If you would like to volunteer for one or both roles, please send an email to me. 🍁

Contact: Mike Schlicht
716/ 316-4388
pageazi@yahoo.com

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

Recap of the Fall 2017 Weekend

Larry Blumberg, Photos by Jacqui Wensich

The Fall 2017 weekend outing was held September 29 - October 1 on the grounds of the beautiful Chautauqua Institute in Chautauqua. Chautauqua is actually west of the FLT's Allegheny State Park western terminus, which allowed attendees, in addition to being able to hike on the far western end of the FLT, to discover some interesting non-FLT trails found in Chautauqua County.

Member clubs of the FLT organization generally take turns hosting these Fall and Spring weekend outings. This particular weekend was hosted by the Foothills Trail Club from the Buffalo area.

Folks began arriving in Chautauqua late Friday morning in anticipation of joining up with one of the half-dozen or so hikes being offered Friday afternoon. I chose a moderate 4.5 mile hike on the Westside Overland Trail being led by Kathy Boni and Claudia Lawler, while my wife Susan chose an easy 4 mile hike at Long Point State Park in Bemus Point on Lake Chautauqua which was being led by Carolyn Celeste and Merridy Knips.

Food service and dormitory-style lodging for the weekend were provided in Bellinger Hall at the north end of the Chautauqua Institute.

The Friday evening dinner was followed by a very informative talk by Dave Newman, the FLT's VP for Trail Preservation. Dave first described efforts to acquire landowner "easements" which protect the trail route, even on private land. He then got into the efforts by the FLT to purchase (with money from the Ed Sidote fund) private land plots adjacent to state forests for eventual resale to N.Y. state. At that point, the FLT gets their money back, New York adds the land to the existing state forest, and as a result the trail which used to be on private land is now afforded additional protection by virtue of being on state land.

Paul Johnson, a local historian, then presented a slide show highlighting the history of the Chautauqua Lake region.

On Saturday there were nearly a dozen hikes offered, ranging from 4 miles on local rail-trails to over 10 miles on the FLT in Little Rock City. My wife and I did a 7.6 mile section of the Westside Overland Trail, led by Marty and Donna Ruszaj.

The Saturday evening speaker, Twan Leenders, serves as President of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in nearby Jamestown. He spoke about the Institute and the biodiversity of the Lake Chautauqua region. The Institute was founded in 1984 in Peterson's hometown, as an educational institution charged with preserving Peterson's lifetime body of work and making it available to the world for educational purposes. You might recognize the name Peterson; think Peterson Field Guides!

On Sunday morning it was time to check out of our rooms and assemble for one of the several Sunday morning hikes being offered. I chose an easy 4 mile stretch of the local Portage Trail, which Paul Johnson had talked about on Friday evening.

Before heading home Sunday afternoon, though, Susan and I topped off the weekend with a stop in nearby Westfield where we enjoyed a local diner's Lake Erie fried perch sandwiches followed by a pie for home from the famous Portage Pie Shop!

Our thanks to the Foothills Trail Club for a great weekend of fellowship and hiking. The Spring 2018 FLT weekend outing is scheduled for June 8-10 at Camp Badger in Spencer, outside of Ithaca, hosted by the Ithaca-based Cayuga Trails Club. See you there ! 🍁



Some of us visited the Audubon Center and Sanctuary south of Jamestown, and saw this eagle there, plus another flying over the wetlands.



Trail Topics: Map Updates

Greg Farnham, VP of Mapping

Breadcrumbs Against Bewilderment - Keeping Found

Davy Crockett, an intrepid, independent and inspiring childhood hero, was allegedly asked if he ever got lost. He replied, "No, but I was bewildered once for 3 days."

Other childhood figures, the innocent, indigent, and imaginary Hansel and Gretel, once laid a lot of breadcrumbs to find their way home. While white pebbles had previously worked for them, the much more famous breadcrumbs were eaten by the birds, and never helped them.

Later in life, musician Leon Russell recorded a song named "Lost in the Woods." He asked a friend of his who happened to be a Zulu from South Africa how to say "lost in the woods" in Zulu. After thinking for a while, his friend replied "Zulus don't get lost in the woods. There is no way to say 'lost in the woods' in Zulu."

This is certainly something that can be said in our native tongue, so in the interest of helping all hikers on the FLT keep found, we try to provide accurate maps of our trail.

In our last issue, we discussed the overall influence of technology on our map maintenance process. In this issue we'll drill into the GPS portion of the process, and how the GPS device data gets onto the new map. This now becomes a bit more technical.

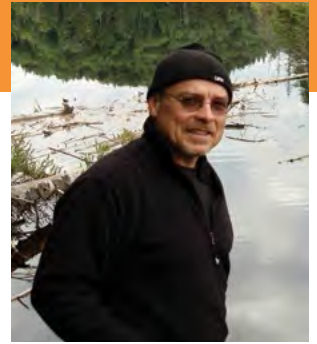
Recall that the Global Positioning System (GPS) is a space-based radionavigation system owned by the US government and operated by the US Air Force. A GPS device on the ground searches for satellites that are visible, and is able to communicate with them. The satellites send time and location data to the device. Once enough (usually a minimum of 4) satellites are in view, the GPS device is able to determine its own position on the ground.

The device records its own position into its internal memory at intervals. For FLTC use, we program our device to record a position every 5 yards. Each of these records is called a track point. As a volunteer walks along the trail with the device, the device records a series of track points, about 5 yards from one another. This series of track points creates a track. Connecting the points produces a line, which when laid on a map, shows where the trail is located. This is very similar to Hansel and Gretel's trail of breadcrumbs. In our case it is more like a trail of white pebbles, which survive the hungry birds that ate the breadcrumbs.

To diverge from science to linguistics for a moment, the acronym "GPS" is now also used as a verb. We ask a volunteer who has a GPS device (also called a GPS) if they will "GPS the trail" for us. This person is then referred to as a GPSer. Once the trail has been GPS'd, the GPSer plugs the GPS (device, not the entire System) into a computer. The new GPS track can be copied onto the computer, whence it is emailed to the mapping team.

The mapping team then copies the breadcrumbs, uh, GPS track, from the email onto the computer disk and loads it into a program to "edit" the new track. The FLTC uses Garmin GPS devices. We

own a very nice GPS device and keep it at the FLTC office to loan to volunteer GPSers to go GPS a new trail. We also use a free software program from Garmin to "edit" the data.



Editing GPS data involves looking at the track in detail to remove any anomalies. Did you ever walk along the trail, miss a blaze, and then have to backtrack to find a blaze you had already walked past, so you could look for the next blaze in sight? Happens to GPSers all the time, especially since they are walking a new track that hasn't been mapped yet. In the case of the bewildered GPSer, carrying a GPS device that is recording a breadcrumb every 5 yards, these track points are extraneous; they don't belong in the track. We take those little diversions out of the data by editing the track. In this way, we are able to ensure that our tracks and their reported mileages are very accurate.

We then knit the new track and relevant segments of old tracks together to create a new track.

Remember: 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 trailreport@fingerlakestrail.org 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 pussy cat doesn't think the automobile tire is a baloney sausage, and tries to nibble a piece out to make a sandwich for the rag doll's picnic," I shall have the pleasure next of telling you the story of what we do with the breadcrumbs once we have them organized.

Map Updates:

The following maps have been updated since our last issue:

Map M3/CT3 was updated to reflect a 2-mile reroute between Stone Chimney Rd and Little Rock City Rd. In addition, this update incorporates previously announced hunting closures. The new Rev Date is 8/2/17.

Map M5 was updated to reflect a reroute at the west end of the map. Due to a requested closure of a section of the previous trail by a landowner, there is now a 1.5 mile roadwalk along Kingsbury Hill Rd and Rte 98, followed by a new section of trail through Harwood Haven Campgrounds. The new Rev Date is 10/24/17.

Map M9 was updated to reflect a major re-route between Ac-

cess Points 7 and 9. The new route eliminates miles of road walk and hunting closures. The re-route reconnects the main FLT to the Kanakadea Park and Lean-to. Much of the new route is protected by easements. The new Rev Date is 8/15/17.

Map M10 was updated to show a new hunting closure. The closure is from Lower Glen Rd to Burt Hill Rd from Sept. 1 to Dec 20. The 5.4 mile bypass is followed (from W to E) by walking left on Lower Glen Rd, right on Lain Rd, left on Turnpike Rd, right on Cunningham Creek Rd, left on Windfall Rd, right on Burt Hill Rd, and left onto the trail at the trailhead. The new Rev Date is 8/15/17.

M20 was updated to incorporate a reroute from mile 23.4 to the end of M20. This occurred as a result of loss of landowner permission. The former hunting bypass is now the main trail, a 6.9 mile road walk to the end of M20. The Rev Date is now 9/30/2017.

M23 was revised to correct a section of trail, add a new spur trail to the Pharsalia Woods Lean-To, and to adjust other way-point locations and labels. The Rev Date is now 9/30/2017.

M24 was updated to show Kopac Pond. The Rev Date is now 9/30/2017.

Map M25 was updated to show two small reroutes that avoid chronically wet areas. The trail mileage did not change. The new Rev Date is 8/8/17.

CT4 was updated to reflect hunting closures and to show bypass routes for these closures. The Rev Date is now 9/14/2017.

Map CT5 was updated to incorporate hunting closures. In addition, the Bunic Bivouac Area between Access Points 2 and 3 has been removed from the map. It is no longer usable. The new Rev Date is 7/26/17.

Map CT6 was updated to incorporate hunting closures. The new Rev Date is 8/6/17.

CT7 was updated to reflect hunting closures and bypass routes. In addition, there are a number of changes to the back of the map to clarify the directions. The Rev Date is now 9/18/2017.

CT8 was updated with an improved hunting bypass route. The Rev Date did not change.

O1 was updated to reflect a reroute beginning near the hang glider jump-off point at mile 16.0. The Rev Date is now 9/30/2017.

M2/CT2 was updated to show the reroute near the west end of M3/CT3 between Stone Chimney Rd and Little Rock City Rd. The M2 route did not change.

B2, B3, CH2, CH3 and M13 were published with trail sponsor updates. 🍁

Contact: Greg Farnham
FLTCmapping@outlook.com

2018 COUNTY HIKE SERIES -- DELAWARE COUNTY

Larry Blumberg, County Hike Series Googlegroup Moderator

Each year the FLT organization sponsors a "County Hike Series." It's set up to sweep across the state, taking about ten years to get from the eastern terminus in the Catskill Mountains to the western terminus in Allegany State Park. This past summer the series started over again at the eastern terminus and we congratulate all those who completed the 2017 Ulster County / eastern Delaware County Hike Series!

The 2018 County Hike Series picks up on Campbell Mountain in eastern Delaware County and heads west for over 60 miles to the Delaware / Chenango County border, which is between Masonville and Bainbridge. The 2018 hikes, which will continue to head from east to west, are found on FLT Maps M29 to M26 and will be spread across six months, April to September. They will take place on the **THIRD** Saturday of each month:

April 21	May 19	June 16
July 21	August 18	September 15

Registration details and cost will be published in the Spring *FLT News* and will also be posted to the FLT website; start checking for it in March!

As in past years, to facilitate communications a googlegroup (e-mail distribution list) will be formed from those who sign up for the 2018 Delaware County Hike Series.

Questions ??? Please contact Donna Coon at coledonnarn@yahoo.com 🍁

Rock Rift Fire Tower in the Catskills.



Warren Johnsen

Wendy Stevenson and Barbara Lobb cleaned up the garden in front of the deck before Mike Goodwin built a new ramp into the office. Later, Deb Nero coated the treated wood of the new ramps to keep them looking nice, and will continue to work on the gardens.

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.

Board member Deb Nero put in volunteer time sealing the wood for the new ramps into our office.



Debbie Hunt

FLT GETS NEW ROAD SIGNS IN THE CATSKILLS

Rick Roberts EAST/Central Catskill area Coordinator

As you drive through the Catskills, near the Cannonsville and Pepacton Reservoirs, you might notice some nice new road signs along N.Y. Routes 10, 30, 206 and 268 courtesy of NYDOT. They depict the usual hiker icon topped by "FINGER LAKES TRAIL," all white on brown in keeping with the color of information signs within the Catskill Park.



Rick Roberts

I applied to the DOT in Binghamton 18 months ago to have these signs erected where the FLT crosses these N.Y. Routes and to my surprise, they were put up this late summer. These routes are narrow and traffic is very fast so signage for hiker crossings was well warranted. Not only that, they serve to promote the FLT in an area where most hikers are unfamiliar with us and our organization.

THANKS TO HAL BOYCE, BELATEDLY

Hal Boyce was a longtime active volunteer on our trail with the Adirondack Mountain Club Onondaga Chapter, and after his recent death, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference was happily surprised by a major bequest from Hal. While Hal was Chapter Chair, the FLT's Howard Beye asked him to have the chapter complete a feasibility study regarding extending the North Country Trail route beyond its travel on the main FLT 22 miles eastward to meet up with the CNY Chapter's NCT territory. That new trail became the expanded Onondaga Trail now shown on Maps O1 and O2.

Hal was a trail steward for many years on the main trail, while he accomplished projects like writing the Chapter's first policy manual. He also was their statistician, keeping track not only of trail work hours but all hikes, leaders, and participants for up to 200 hikes a year!



Jacqui Wensich

Hal and Theresa on the occasion of her end-to-end completion.

He also undertook personal projects, most recently acting as Theresa Evans' personal trail angel so that she wouldn't be chipping away at hiking end-to-end for years. By giving her rides plus acting as the sag wagon on some county series hikes, he enabled her to finish the main trail in 2011 as #310, and then the branch trails as #78 in 2013. Hal loved the outdoors and was so happy to share it with others; Theresa says she owes her knowledge of wildflowers to walking with him.

How we wish we could thank Hal Boyce for his generosity in person, but he apparently wanted to be quiet about it.

ICE HOCKEY

Peg Fuller

Hikers from both Triple Cities and Bullthistle Hiking Clubs enjoyed a night of watching ice hockey in Binghamton on Nov. 4th. The sale of the tickets benefited the FLT. The Binghamton Devils played the Lehigh Valley Phantoms. Unfortunately the home team lost, but the game was exciting and allowed for a fun outing that was colder inside than many of our outdoor hikes. The Trail and both clubs were mentioned on the game's flyer so it was a publicity opportunity, too.

FOOTHILLS TRAIL CLUB FOUNDING MEMBERS

Sally Hardenburg

An update to our last article on the club's Founding Members

Florence Mazur, one of the Founding Members of the Foothills Trail Club, died October 9, 2017. Florence was born in Buffalo in 1929. She loved to hike and being out in nature. For those reasons, in 1962 she joined a group of similar minded people to start the Foothills Trail Club and to begin the construction of the Conservation Trail.

Florence would always tell the hiking story about how they had followed a wrong trail until it became too dark to find their way out, so they ended up sitting in place all night in the dark and the cold. They were able to make their way out in the morning and back to the cabin. However, friends had contacted the Rangers who were out looking for them. The Rangers finally found them back at the cabin enjoying breakfast. Florence considered this a great adventure.

This wasn't Florence's only adventure. She was known for being an intrepid traveler, going all over the United States and to other countries. Florence along with other Foothills Trail Club Founding Members traveled together to visit many of the National Parks. In 1960, she took a cargo ship to Hawaii without having any place to stay.

Her nieces and nephews loved going places with Aunty and remember her zest for life.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS HIKE

Peg Fuller

On October 1 Peg Fuller, and Art & Sharron Sandberg of the Bullthistle Hiking Club led a hike for Norwich Middle School Art teacher, Matt Wilson, 13 of his photography class students and five parents. The group set out from the new DEC parking on Johnson St. (FLT Map 23) and hiked up the road to the FLT entrance. Hiking south on the FLT we enjoyed photographing everything, trees, mushrooms, flowers, bugs, chipmunks. We stopped at Jackson Pond for more pictures.

It was interesting to watch the kids all find different things to take pictures of. Everyone had a unique perspective. We hiked 2.8 miles in 1 hour 40 minutes. It was a beautiful afternoon for a hike with weather conditions near perfect.



Matt Wilson

REFURBISHING DESTINATION SIGNS

Steve Catherman

Troop 32 from Avoca relocated this one from in front of the Vinehurst Inn to the Pleasant Valley Trailhead at the Urbana Town Hall near Hammondsport. Mitchell Heard was the scout who began working on this project about two years ago. He routed the oak sign by hand and stained it with the requisite Woodsman Rustic Brown, a gallon of which is left over for us. After he aged out, the rest of the troop, led by Randy Heard, their Scoutmaster, installed the sign on Sunday 10/22.

Scouts who participated: Mitchell Heard

Camden Hayes

Justin Bennett

Nathaniel Wasserman

Alexander Wasserman

Nolan Bennett

Tyler King

Ian Bennett

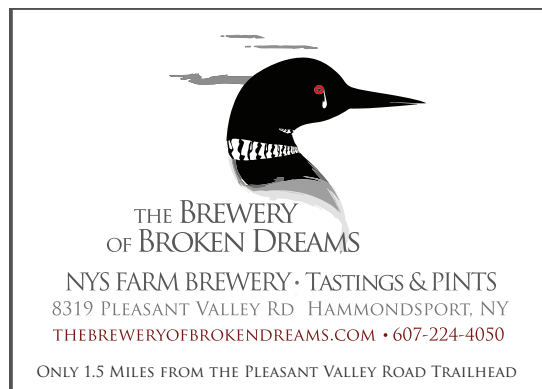
Riley Schiedweiler

Kody Champagne



Randy Heard

Steve Catherman



This Map M12 area brewery is one of the sponsors of the Twisted Branch run, and has FLT maps on their wall.

A Naturalist's View

D. Randy Weidner

After the leaves fall from the deciduous trees, a winter walk through the woods along the Finger Lakes Trail takes on a whole new dimension. Without a leafy understory, you can see much farther into the forest and along the trail. It is easier to pick out the distinctive white trail blazes. Large animals like deer and turkey are easier to see, but are encountered at a greater distance. Birds are much less numerous than in spring and summer, but easier to spot in the bare treetops. The dormancy of the winter woods significantly diminishes the range of visual and auditory stimulation, but the chill of winter air will excite your tactile sense. While this all sounds like a walk through the winter woods may have less to offer, the lack of a leafy canopy does present the hiker with some opportunities not as easily appreciated at other times.

For one thing, the open canopy provides an unobstructed view of the winter sky. Often the clearest skies you can recall occur in winter. The cold air results in very low relative humidity, eliminating any haze. But these clear skies are also much rarer in winter. Sometimes whole weeks go by without seeing the sun. The cloud species of winter are seasonally distinct and follow a more predictable progression. The low humidity makes the puffy, white cumulus clouds of warmer seasons much less common. Instead, as a weather front approaches, the once clear sky begins to display high, wispy cirrus clouds. Next, the clouds thicken to become lines of overlapping clouds, a mackerel sky, formed by winds aloft, and signaling impending change. Then these distinctive cloud rows even out and drop in altitude as cirrostratus clouds. Not far behind is the thick bank of stratus clouds. These low level, moisture laden clouds surely threaten rain or snow. Sometimes revealing an underside of irregular forms, winter stratus clouds often appear more uniform, far reaching, and can result in a long lasting cloud cover. This sequence of sky change can alert the hiker to impending bad weather.

And yet there are those beautiful, clear, cold days to enjoy. On such days, particularly near dawn or dusk, take an occasional look at the sun. With the probability of ice crystals in the sky near the horizons, check for "sun dogs." Sun dogs are the bright glares of light seen to the left, right, or on either side of the sun. If you measured the angle from the direct line to the sun, the sun dog will be exactly 22 degrees away. An even more spectacular winter sky phenomenon is a "solar halo," a complete circle of light around the sun at that same distance of 22 degrees

off the line to the sun. Halos can be seen through thin cirrus or cirrostratus clouds. These phenomena depend on the refraction of sunlight through high altitude ice crystals, and because of this prismatic bend, a sun dog may appear red on the side towards the sun and then orange to blue on the outer edge.

At night, a thin "lunar halo," also at 22 degrees, and caused by high altitude ice crystals, often can be seen encircling the moon. This brings up the possibility of hiking at night. The open canopy does present a bit more light for a night hike, especially with a bright moon. Once your eyes accommodate to the dark and you are working on seeing with your retinal rods rather than cones, visibility is reasonable. Certainly a slower pace is prudent. Those rocks and roots that try to trip you in summer are even more fiendish in winter as the footing gets slippery. But being outside on a clear night, away from artificial light sources, is an experience fewer and fewer people are having. If you have not done so recently, go see the spectacle of the winter night sky! (In fact, dark sky parks are cropping up all over the world, places that have so little artificial light that a "real" sky can be seen.)

If you are out at night in winter, there is much to see in the sky. Certainly the Milky Way, the bright band of multiple stars about 30 degrees wide, our galaxy seen on edge, cannot be missed arcing across the night sky. Many other bright stars, planets and constellations are easily visible in winter. Probably everyone can recognize *Ursa major*, the Big Dipper. In winter, looking due north, the Big Dipper is just east of north, the open bowl of the dipper facing west and the handle hanging down toward the





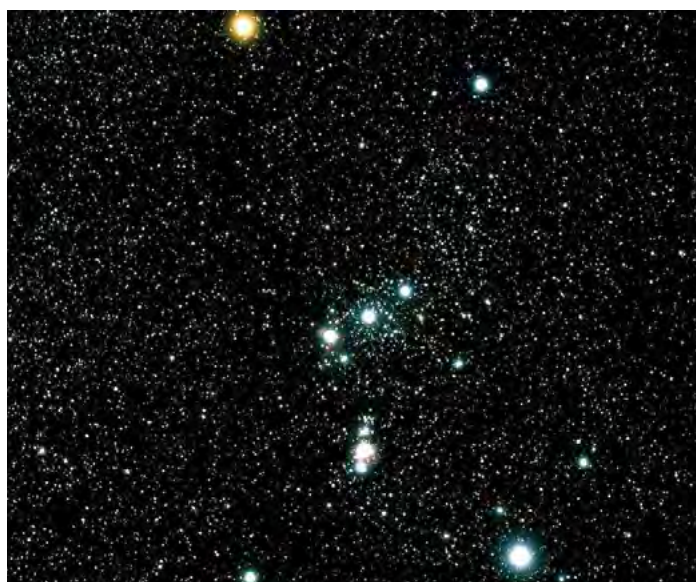
horizon. But the ultimate winter constellation is *Orion*, rising in the east after dark beginning in October, and moving westward all through the night. As winter progresses into March, *Orion* rises more to the southeast and sets in the very early morning hours. *Orion* is quite distinctive, his upper body a pentagon of bright stars, his lower parts a trapezoid of bright stars, the two parts separated by a diagonal “belt” of three close bright stars. Upper appendages are formed by much fainter stars and require some imagination. When he first appears above the horizon, *Orion* seems to be resting, reclining on his back. As he rises higher in the sky he assumes a more upright posture. Once you have located *Orion*, take a long look at the various stars.

The very bright star below the “belt” to the right (west) is *Rigel*. *Rigel* is a blue supergiant star, 75 times the diameter of our Sun and 800 light years away. Next look at *Betelgeuse*, above the “belt” to the left (east). You should notice it is red compared to *Rigel*. This is because *Betelgeuse* is a red supergiant star, with a diameter 2000 times that of our Sun and 640 light years away. We see only 13% of the light given off by *Betelgeuse*, which now emits mostly infra-red light. *Betelgeuse* is an old, dying star that has burned off most of its hydrogen and its collapsing core is generating heavy metals. It is expected to supernova (explode) soon, within the next million years (a short time for astronomical dates). When it does, the light from that explosion will be bright enough to be seen during the day on Earth and brighter than the moon at night.

The three bright stars of *Orion*’s belt are also interesting. The upper one (to the right or west) is *Mintaka*, actually a pair of closely rotating blue giants. The lower one (to the left or east), *Alnitak*, is a triple star cluster whose primary star is also a blue giant. The middle “belt” star is *Alnilam*, also a blue giant. Below *Orion*’s belt, down from *Alnilam*, are three other stars in a row, often termed *Orion*’s sword. Look closely at the middle one, which appears fuzzy. This appearance is because the object is not a star system but a nebula, a place of more diffuse starstuff where stars are born. As one last exercise, follow a line down thru *Orion*’s belt and you will encounter *Sirius*, the brightest star in the night sky.

▲ *Aurora Borealis*

▼ *Constellation Orion*



All three are public domain pictures.

Cultures all across the globe recognize distinctive constellations like *Orion*. Many see him as a shepherd or hunter. Native American Lakota saw a buffalo, with the belt being the spine and the rectangle its ribs. Perhaps the most accurate were the Ojibwa who called it Kabibona’kan, the “winter maker,” for surely *Orion* ushers in winter and leaves when winter is over.

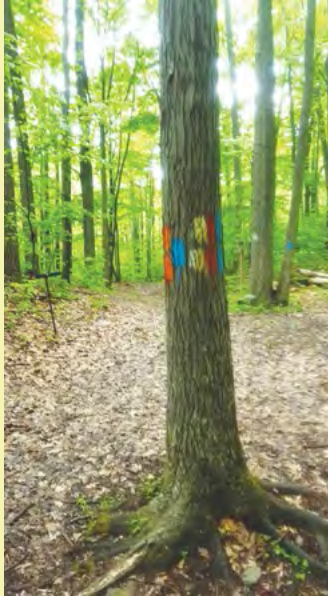
Winter can be a good time for hiking the Finger Lakes Trail, and there is always something interesting in Nature to enjoy. The action is not just on the ground or in the woods. Neither is it only during daylight. When out this winter, day or night, try looking up for some real treats. 🍁



Answers to the Fall 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:



Paul Warrender

Last one was on Map B1 by Paul Warrender, within the Boy Scouts' Camp Cutler, where our Bristol Hills Trail intersects with several other Scout trails.

There were quite a few guesses. The following were correct.

*Anna Keeton
Anita Edgemon
Carol Thiel
Daniel Lombardo*

New Picture:



Mike Schlicht

Anyone see Big Foot?

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		

New Members

Patricia Anderson	N. Tonawanda
Tori Andruczyk	Honeoye Falls
Judith Austic	Seneca Falls
John Bennett	Naples
Thane Bilodeau	Homer
Dennis Fronheiser	Rochester
Beth Gajewski	Canandaigua
Helena Garan	Johnson City
Gary Grinnell	Painted Post
William Heckman	Rochester
Curtis Horn	Webster
Tana Jansen	Livonia
Tom Markel	Arkport
Elizabeth McCartney	Ithaca
Jim Miller	Rochester
Cindy Prober	Rushville
Marjolien Schat	Brooktondale
Steven Schwartz	Rochester
Jessica Seem	Oakham, MA
Mark Sleeper	Reston, VA
Springwater Trails, Inc.	Naples
Dennis Swartwout	South Hadley, MA
James Traver	Syracuse
Christina Utter	Mt. Upton
Ferdinand von Muench	Hamilton

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.

ROOTING FOR AN 83-YEAR-OLD POTENTIAL END-TO-ENDER!

Lydia LePinnet lives in Citrus Springs, Florida, but used to hike with the Tri-Town Hikers, a group who tended trail and hiked weekly in the area east of Bainbridge, N.Y. That group has long since disbanded, with many of its members now dead or moved away, like Lydia did. However, Lydia had hiked enough of the Finger Lakes Trail that she hated to quit, so she kept returning to N.Y. for at least a week each summer.

After her husband died, she would hike for longer visits up north, and then when her daughter Nancy DiJulio also became a widow, Lydia decided that Nancy would become her hiking partner. Other sisters from Florida, Pennsylvania, and New York hiked with them sometimes, but now Nancy has an assignment, to help her mother finish her last 42 miles in the summer of 2018. It is Nancy who told your editor about her mother's quest. So here's hoping we hear good news next summer!

Picture by Nancy DiJulio of her mother on right, and sister Patti Taggart with dog Reilly on the trail near Newfield.



FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, April 28, 2018

2018 Wally Wood Spring Hike

Tompkins County FLT Map M16

Hike Leaders:

Theresa and Jay Evans

Details forthcoming.

WESTERN N.Y. COUPLE RECEIVES THE 2016 NCTA "HONOR" NOD

The North Country Trail Association affords each trail-hosting affiliate, partner (us, the FLTC), and chapter of the NCTA the opportunity to choose one

honoree each year from their group, in hopes of honoring valued local volunteers who may not have won one of the big annual awards. The Finger Lakes Trail Board of Managers works on several award nominees each year at their March meeting, and last year chose Donna and Marty Ruszaj for this honor. (It's pronounced Rue-shy, we are told.)

Marty and Donna enjoyed several of the county hikes themselves and then undertook the planning and leadership of two county series in western N.Y. a couple years ago, before the series boomeranged back to the east end of the trail, and their work at this job was recognized as very organized and creative, no small feat! Anybody who does a good job at managing this big project deserves a halo, especially when they do it twice. They are both members of Foothills Trail Club and Marty also manages their Buffalo Meet Up site.

Thank you, Donna and Marty.



Jackson "Jet" Thomas, 2014

Annual Trail Closure on Private Land

On the first Monday in February, the trail is legally closed on all private lands for just that one day.

The Scout Law

Quinn Diehl, age 15 - Life Scout Troop 5

A Scout is trustworthy loyal helpful friendly courteous kind obedient cheerful thrifty brave clean and reverent.

Over Columbus Day Weekend, 8 **Brave** Boy Scouts of Troop 5 in Binghamton set off with their **Loyal** adult leaders to hike Map 23 of the FLT. After several regular Scout meetings the Troop **Cheerfully** decided that we would start near the Partridge Road access point and finish our trek at the Berry Hill Fire Tower near Bowman Lake State Park in McDonough.

Our Scoutmasters were very **Helpful** with preparing us for our hike, providing guidance with our gear, making sure we were prepared and of course showing us how to be **Thrifty** to buy enough food for us all over our three day adventure without breaking the bank.

Along the trail we **Obediently** followed the Outdoor Code, the posted rules of the FLT, our leaders' examples and the training that Scouting had given us. During our second day we met a nice local lady and her dog who we were extra **Friendly** to and offered to share our lunch. On our second night on the FLT we came to the Pharsalia Woods Lean-to where we did meet a pair of day hikers whom we **Courteously** avoided and moved our camp until they moved on. The hikers were grateful for our **Kindness** and left us with a smile.

As this was many of the Scouts' first Backpacking experience, we had some slow goings over the hills of the FLT in this section. The



John Diehl



John Diehl

scenery was a m a z i n g as we overlooked the hills and valleys, though it had been a dry fall and water was not as a b u n d a n t as we had anticipated. Every day we had to collect water bottles and walk to water sources not so near where we were camping. We needed plenty of water to cook, keep

Clean and of course stay hydrated – it was hard work and we were all sweating! Especially our Scoutmaster Mr. Diehl! He carried the most and we think worked the hardest.

The second day was a much better hiking day; all of the Scouts tightened their belts, adjusted their packs and found the trail was much less up and down, and more just on and on. There were several big hills that took their toll on the adults and the younger scouts, but again, we all strived on and offered our **Reverence** to all of the wonders of nature that we were exposed to.



John Diehl

Once we reached our second stopping point we were all relieved and glad that we **Trusted** our maps, compass and decisions to get there. Knowing that it was supposed to rain that night, we briefly considered pushing on to our final destination and leaving the Trail sooner, but did not want to leave the immaculate Pharsalia Woods Lean-to. We stayed and enjoyed dinner, a nice fire and an awesome evening. We scouts shared the lean-to while the Scoutmasters pitched tents and slept in the rain. They were all a bit sore and achey when they got up on that Monday morning!

After a quick breakfast and thorough cleanup, we packed up, and headed to our destination, after a quick photo opportunity by the Mr. FLT bench, of course. The trail took us on a busy road for a bit as we climbed the final hill to the Berry Hill Fire tower, and the rain never ceased to fall. At the end of the trail was the Fire Tower that we had been searching for. I do believe that was the highlight of the trek for all of us scouts; it was an amazing view, a bit scary, and well worth the walk - even in the rain. Our Scoutmasters told us that they were very proud of what we accomplished, and we are all looking forward to another opportunity to hike the FLT.

Thank you to all the volunteers who keep and maintain the FLT into the awesome trail that it is. We were impressed by the campsites, the details of the maps, and the trail markers. There were a lot of ups and downs along the path, but we are all better for it. 🍁

Finger Lakes Trail 2018 Calendar of Events

February 1 Deadline, *FLT News*
 February 10 Howard Beye Hike (pg. 31)
 March 10 Board of Managers, meeting at Mt. Morris
 April 28 Wally Wood Hike, (pg. 31)
 May 1 Deadline, *FLT News*
 June 8-10 Spring Weekend, Camp Badger, Spencer, N.Y.
 July 27-29 Trail Days in Bath

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VACANT

VACANT

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Wendy Stevenson • Springwater

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

The Erv Markert hike on October 14th passes a tidy farm on Bush Road, map M9 west of Hornell approaching the Canisteo River. Photo by Janet Bernecky

