

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Summer 2018



Inside...

- * ***Odors Both Good and Bad in the Forest***
- * ***More Mapping History***
- * ***Our First FLTC Group Hike of the Season***

SUMMER 2018



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: Photo by Jacqui Wensich, taken May of 2011 during a Cortland County Hike Series. It's on Map M21 in the Taylor Valley where the trail needs to cross Chenango Creek, which is always too much water to ford, and often worse. It's within Taylor Valley State Forest, so we are thankful that the DEC placed these immense boulders which enable us to cross.

THIS PAGE: Move over, winter! Taken on Map M22 in Chenango County by Warren Johnsen

President's Message

Pat Monahan



This past spring, I combined some vacation time with some FLT volunteer time in the lovely Commonwealth of Virginia. I found myself along with thousands of other travelers and truckers on Interstate 81 driving from one end of the state to the other. My destination: Damascus, Va., and the Virginia Creeper Trail. My nine plus travel hours turned into a dozen before pulling into Woodchuck Hostel around 10:30 pm. Damascus is a trail town for the Appalachian Trail (AT) and was completely packed with thru hikers on their way to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. They are a very hardy, focused and determined bunch of people of all ages, gender, race, country of origin, and you name it. They were on a mission but also had a few minutes to talk with this old guy with a car and a suitcase. I asked a few questions like, "Have you ever heard of the Finger Lakes Trail? North Country National Scenic Trail? Great Eastern Trail?" I heard the same answer every single time. "Nope." I guess I was not surprised. We certainly have a trail arguably as good as or better than some well-known trails like the AT. If we truly want to be nationally recognized, we need to start with our neighbors, local, county and state agencies and elected officials and tourist bureaus. Tell the colorful stories of the people who have a passion for the natural beauty of the FLT. By the way, this was the vacation part of my trip. I also attended a Great Eastern Trail Association Board meeting in Narrows, Va. More on that some other time.

At our annual meeting on June 9, I had the opportunity to thank outgoing Board members for their years of service on the Board. They included Scott Brooks, Anna Keeton, Bob Kremens, Terry Meacham, and Laurie Ondrejka. Thanks to the Class of 2018. The general membership approved the following slate for the Class of 2021 Board of Managers: Rich Breslin, Scott Brooks, Anna Keeton and Ann Bayley. Thank you for agreeing to take a leadership role in the FLT. We need your knowledge and experience to work effectively to govern the FLT. The membership also approved a few bylaw changes. First, changing the Vice President of Mapping to a director level position re-aligned our Board makeup. Second, we changed from 2/3 to a simple majority to approve the purchase, sale, mortgage or lease of real property which aligns us with the

current NYS Revitalization Act regulations. Finally, the membership approved authorizing the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board to acquire any real property interest where no funds other than filing, survey

and legal fees are to be expended. The membership also heard that the FLT is fiscally sound based on our annual audit.

Since the last magazine was published, we have had a few Board meetings. We have drawn several conclusions about the organization. After 56 years in existence, we are neither a club nor a business. Our organization seems to work best as a hybrid of both, staying close to our roots and at the same time growing into the future. Our mission statement is supported by the Board without question. We have begun the process to determine our core values, vision and supporting goals and objectives for the FLT. We will be writing a strategic plan with an outside and objective facilitator to give focus and clarity for all of our activities. It is a major undertaking that will be worthwhile only if it is a living document that is used for Board direction rather than as a doorstop. We are in the early stages of its development. There will be more to come in future magazine articles.

If you are reading this as a member, thank you for your continued support. We would not exist without you. Your donations of time and/or money have helped us become New York's premier footpath for everyone to enjoy at no cost. If you are not a member, we need you. Enjoy the trail from one side of the state to the other in day trips or a thru hike. Consider becoming part of the FLT as a member or a volunteer. We want the FLT to be part of your story so others will be inspired to get out on the trail.

It seems like we skipped spring and went directly from winter to summer. You know what I have to say regardless of the season.

"Go take a hike!!" 🍁

Join the FLT Yahoo Groups E-Mail List

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference's e-mail list is a discussion group hosted by yahoo groups.com. Its purpose is to allow the subscribers (approximately 850 people) to communicate information to each other pertaining to FLT hikes and other FLT activities, and to also allow subscribers to post general hiking-camping-backpacking and/or FLT-related questions that can be answered by any of the other participants.

The co-moderators who will oversee the use of this electronic mailing list and offer help with questions are: Larry Blumberg (lblumberg@stny.rr.com), Scott Geiger, (scott.geiger@gmail.com) and Roger Hopkins (roger@natural-highs.net)

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

Another McConnell Hike

Terry R. McConnell

My assignment on this hot August Sunday morning was to finish off Map M9 of the FLT, and I had parked my car at Access Point 3 on Gas Springs Road, near the apex of a major divide that separates the waters of the northward flowing Genesee from those of the southward flowing Susquehanna River. Then I rode my bike west to the beginning of the hike.

Canaseraga is clearly a Six Nations word. Probably it would have been pronounced Ga-na-zuh-rah-ka, though I have no idea what it means. “Ka,” in Mohawk at least, is a marker that means “place where,” so this was probably the place where the creek did something or other. Once, it was likely a vibrant farming community with a main street lined with family owned stores. There is still a store named “Maslin’s Department Store,” but a sign on the front lawn of the Central School read “Merger Meeting Tonight,” and towns like this give the forlorn sense that their best days are behind them. On the slight uphill going out of town, a prominent roadside sign read “Jail” with an arrow pointing towards a small and very old looking brick building that might have served well as a wine cellar. Behave yourselves when in Canaseraga!

A bank thermometer confirmed my expectation of an unusually warm day: 91F at 10am.

Route 70 bends north a mile or so past Canaseraga and after another 2 miles I spotted an incredibly steep dirt road coming down on the right that looked like a runaway truck escape ramp. This was England Hill Road, and it carries the M8 FLT down to Route 70 from Rattlesnake Wildlife Management Area. I locked the bike to a guard rail, and set out on a short road walk up 70 to double blazes that heralded a turn onto a side road crossing the headwaters of the Canaseraga Creek. A sign next to the road said that this was Swain, a ski slope with a village attached, appearing to be roughly evenly divided between beds and breakfasts and bars for the skiers. Strange name for a village, Swain. It is an archaic English word for a male suitor, the sort who might have come a’courting at some old country manor. Young, eligible, probably rich, he would have stood of an evening beneath the damsel’s window, crooning sonnets and love-songs. {*Sorry, Terry. Samuel Swain was a 19th century surveyor and developer, and got this village named Swains as if it were his own. Ski slope wasn’t developed until just after World War II by a couple named Robinson. Editor*}

Skirting the edge of the ski slopes south of Swain, the trail enters the woods and begins to follow an old railroad bed {*Pittsburg Shawmut & Northern, closed in 1947. Ed.*}, soon reaching an area of labyrinthine side trails known as the “Robinson Loops,” blazed in every color of the rainbow. These looked interesting, but I had miles to go and promises to keep, so I kept these trails for another day; yet, knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back.

After the railroad bed, short road walks carry the trail through Garwoods, a Methodist church with a village attached, followed by a sharp turn south on Gates Road.

The surface of Gates road was pock-marked with puddles from what had evidently been a heavy downpour the day before, and I began to wonder if I should plan to take the blue cutoff trail. Up ahead, I knew, the trail would enter a steep gully for the climb to Slader Creek State Forest. The map warned in dire terms about this slippery and treacherous section, advising a drier, though steeper, alternate route whenever conditions are less than perfect. The FLT map descriptions, I have found, are seldom prone to exaggeration.

One of the puddles had mostly evaporated, leaving a glistening patch of damp warm mud. It was decorated with Sulphur butterflies lined up in two parallel ranks of 20 or so, their wings folded like fighter jets arrayed on the deck of an aircraft carrier. My approach had stirred them up and I soon found myself at the center of a little fluttery cloud of yellow motes that seemed almost to pulsate in unison. Some kind of subtle inter-insect communication perhaps, akin to whatever keeps geese flying in a perfect “V”, or enables schools of fish to weave to and fro as if possessed of a single mind.

Ahead the trail angled upward through the side yard of a house and between some out-buildings before entering the notorious steep gully section. The water in the gully proved to be low in spite of the recent rain so I decided to forego the blue blazed cutoff in order to register the full M8 experience. {*Oh, but the view from the blue trail is wonderful!*} And experience it was! There was a series of 3 to 5 foot waterfalls to be surmounted on knees and elbows, numerous fallen trees that extended all the way across the gully and had to be wriggled under or clambered over, and, where the water did not flow, chaotic jumbles of rocks of every shape and description that promised a wrenched ankle to any misstep. Occasionally, there would be an encouraging blaze mark that seemed to say “Yes, we really do intend for you to walk right up the middle of this stream bed.” In most places the water was shallow enough to wade through without wetting the uppers of my Salomon Ultras, and the wet rocks turned out not to be so slippery after all. There was none of the slick green algae that can turn this type of terrain into a death trap. About halfway up I took off my shoes and sat next to a small gurgling waterfall with my feet immersed in the cold water. A little skinny-dip would have been welcome on such a hot day, but this would do.

It probably took me at least 45 minutes to fight my way up the 0.4 mile gully route (not counting the break by the falls), but I’m really glad I did it. Those who would follow should take care, however. This section requires constant attention to footing, route finding, and a certain amount of athleticism. It is not for the faint of heart or infirm of limb.



Terry McConnell

Emerging from the gully at last, I climbed over a series of three fence stiles, did a very careful limbo under an ominously snapping electric fence, and decided to check out “Bossard’s Cabin” at the end of a quarter mile spur trail. The cabin appears to be a small hunting camp, facing a large and scenic pasture in the front, and beset by high weeds and undergrowth at the rear where the trail passes between it and an outhouse standing just behind. There was no lock on the door, and it opened to reveal a large well-furnished room with cots, kitchen area, and a large dining table running through the middle. According to the map, this privately owned camp is open to any hiker who cares to spend the night, except during hunting season, and this amazing generosity on the part of the owners, coupled with the nearly overflowing jar for cash “contributions” on the table, did much to revive my flagging faith in the goodness of mankind. There was also a number of oil lamps, but I can’t imagine I would dare to use them. Think of the infamy of being the one to burn down Bossard’s Cabin! I spent some time relaxing on the front porch, gazing at a herd of Holsteins grazing a half mile away at the far side of the pasture.

Map 8 ends about a mile past the cabin, and from there it was about 6 miles of M9 to my car on mostly old established trail through open forest. I took another breather at a bivouac area next to one of two ponds shown on the map near seasonal Bill Morris Road. In reality, the two ponds are probably just the wettest parts of a single large swamp. I remembered my earlier notion of a skinny dip, but this reedy expanse, while obviously appealing to the multitude of small frogs that arced into it from all sides as I approached, did not seem at all suitable for that purpose.

One of the two ponds at the top of Klipnocks State Forest, along Bill Morris Rd.

A pleasant place to rest in late afternoon, but when the sun begins to sink and the quiet of dusk draw near, more mosquitoes would issue from those quiet waters than there are people on planet Earth. A great bivy area in mid-October. In mid-August, not so much.

South of the two ponds area the trail goes through an exceptionally rocky area, and passes a couple major pits. I had to ask the Allegany County Historian about those pits with huge rocks in them, so learned that the Klipnocks quarry was a business enterprise long ago. Editor.

There is no more welcome sight for the tired hiker than his car, resolving itself from the woods in precisely the position he had left it so many hours before. Returning, sore but satisfied, to the outskirts of Swain to rescue my bike, I prepared for the 3 hour drive home. “I’ll be back,” I thought, “to this valley one more time.”🍁

New Life Members

Juanita Ball
Charles Culp
Beverly Feindt
David R. Newlun
Robert H. Suss

Rochester
Saint Marys, Ga.
Ovid
Horseheads
Voorheesville

Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright

I was reflecting the other day and asked myself “How did I come to be the Executive Director?” I used to just bushwhack alone but one day I came across orange blazes in Hunters Creek County Park. So I followed the blazes. That led to another question of “Where did those marks come from?” I soon discovered that orange blazes were a part of the Conservation Trail that was built by the Foothills Trail Club. I joined the club and became a trail maintainer in the Town of Holland’s ravine area. I truly thought that was the end of the story. Foothills then undertook the task of trying to tame the ravines, I volunteered to work on the project, and one day Howard Beye and Lynda Rummel showed up to run that project. I had no idea who they were, but they were in charge! I asked “Where did these people come from?” and the answer was the Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC.)

I soon learned that this was an Alley Cat project and I asked “What is that?” The answer was that not only did the FLTC promote the project, but it also provided trail building expertise and leadership, it provided training, equipment and the money for the project. I was floored by that realization and felt obligated to join the FLTC which I did as a Lifetime member. Sadly, several years later Howard died. There followed an ad in the *FLT News* for a Director of Crews and Construction. I had enjoyed the Alley Cats that I had worked on and realized what an enormous task it is to keep the FLTC trail system functioning at its best so I volunteered to take on that task. What a rewarding experience it was as I got to know people from across the state who had the same locally focused interests as the Foothills people. But this position opened my eyes even more as I learned that the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) uses a large part of the Finger Lakes Trail as part of its long traverse from New York to North Dakota!

Yet again I learned something new: the North Country Trail Association which oversees the NCT doesn’t just use the FLT. The NCTA has funded several construction projects, funds part of the chainsaw training classes and signage, plus offers fund raising support, occasional legal assistance, and expertise in dealing with public officials. So once again my eyes were opened! I felt compelled to lend at least some financial support to the NCTA; I joined and also include them in my annual giving plans. But my journey was not yet complete. I volunteered to help the NCTA in its Federal advocacy efforts to help in its trail routing efforts, and now I am privileged to be on its Board of Directors. So a voice that spoke to me from an orange blaze on the trail has resonated to a local club, and then to the FLTC, and then to NCTA.

There are 27 National Scenic and Historic Trail Organizations. Between them in 2017 there were 1,046,194 volunteer hours that are valued at \$25,255,118! These same organizations received \$15,158,245 in donations which are critical to the operations because the Federal dollars given to them at best meet one half of the total operating costs. The FLTC receives none of the Federal dollars and is totally dependent upon our membership dues and donations. We do avoid a large expense because the Army Corps

of Engineers provides us an office complete with electricity at no charge.

The FLTC system including its affiliate clubs’ volunteer time is shown below in a chart. Forty percent of that time involved boots on the ground for trail work! The balance of the

volunteer stewardship time went to other support tasks. Volunteer stewardship includes trail building and maintenance, outreach event development, youth engagement, public education, development of interpretive materials and sites, removal of invasive species, habitat restoration, land protection, historic research, reenactments, archaeological studies, and community partnership development. Regrettably not all of these stewardship functions can be accomplished just by volunteers – there is a limit to people’s time and expertise. Because of that every trail organization has paid staff to support the many tasks. The other chart shows the task source of 24,342 volunteer hours. I am certain that many of you have not reported your volunteer time and encourage you to do so in the future.

What is the point of this? The answer is that local volunteers are the underpinning of this complete picture. What I didn’t realize when I became more than a trail user was the cost in human



Kathy Eisele

2017 Volunteer Trail Work Hours

Finger Lakes Trail Conference	11,012
Cayuga Trails Club	3,741
individual sponsors	2,798
ADK Onondaga Chapter	2,091
Bullthistle Hikers	1,992
Foothills Trail Club	1,656
Triple Cities Hiking Club	558
ADK Genesee Valley Chapter	180
NYSATE Section 6	131
Springwater Trails	76
Catskill Mountain Club	45
Binghamton Univ. Outdoor Pursuits	33
Hammondsport Girl Scouts	25
Naples Central School: Grade 5 NOL Class	6
Total	24,342

time and energy to keep the entire system of the National Scenic and Historic Trails functioning. The physical investment of maintaining the trails is the foundation upon which everything else rests. There exists a closed loop. The trail maintenance succeeds only if the volunteer and paid staff support it, and the volunteer and paid staff are necessary only if the trail continues to be maintained properly. I encourage all of you to support each level of the trail system with some of your time and some of your dollars if possible. 🍁

FLT Trail System Volunteer Hours by Job

<i>Trail Work</i>	<i>Administration</i>	<i>Leading Hikes</i>	<i>Mapping & Trail Protection</i>	<i>Training</i>	<i>Total</i>
9,940	9,876	2,479	1,751	297	24,342

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Love On The FLT *Gary Shaw*

At a Huggers Ski club meeting a woman announced she would be leading a group hike on the FLT on Saturday May 3, 1998. Sounded good to me! I like to hike and the prospect of spending a day in the woods with a bunch of other outdoor lovers was appealing.

May 3 dawned dreary and damp. Only three of us showed up at the Marketplace parking lot to car pool to the trail head. The other person was one Penny Miller, a cute perky blonde school teacher from Wayne County. The weather turned out not to be so bad, and I had a delightful day in the beautiful woods with two attractive and charming ladies.

As we said our goodbyes after supper at Brian's USA diner in Mount Morris, I asked Penny if I could call her. She said "Sure-I'm in the book". Turned out she wasn't, at least not under the name Penny. But I persevered, managed to get her number, and the rest, as they say.....is history.

Most of our dates thereafter were FLT hikes and in April 1999, Penny became end-to-end #99. We were married in September 2000 and I became end-to-end #138 in October 2001. Shortly thereafter we acquired a large black dog named Murphy and together hiked all of the FLT spur trails.

On Thursday May 3, 2018, we celebrated the anniversary of the day we met by hiking (what we believed to be) that same stretch we hiked in 1998. It got off to an auspicious start when we were able to arrange for our old friend Irene Szabo to be our car spotter. And just like 20 years ago, May 3 was to be a dreary day, with prediction of heavy rain, wind and perhaps even some nasty thunder showers. But when Irene dropped us off on Rice Road in the town of Pike, the sun was already peeking though and the day turned out to be warm and pleasant with only a sprinkle or two.



Gary Shaw

The only downside was that someone seriously misjudged the mileage. The map said 10 miles. I am pretty sure that was only the VERTICAL distance! By the time we got back to the truck we were barely moving. But a good night's sleep and a half bottle of Ibuprofen later, we are basking in the reverie of another wonderful day of hiking and the memories of 20 wonderful years together, all because of that fateful meeting 20 years ago on the FLT. 🍁

A Naturalist's View

Story and Pictures by D. Randy Weidner

Summertime hikes on the Finger Lakes Trail are always a treat for the senses. Warm temperatures are usually perceived as inviting, but if it is too warm, then early morning or evening temperatures are often just right. I suspect most of us hike for what we might see along the trail. Vistas, wildlife, flowering plants, and any number of things can make for a memorable hike. While we humans are primarily visually oriented beings, we also enjoy a discerning sense of hearing. Unlike the focused primary sense of vision, our hearing is often damped down by our attention centers until a particular sound breaks through, demanding our focus. On such occasions we might then identify birds, frogs, and insects, or simply enjoy their songs and calls. Experienced naturalists employ all their senses to maximize the outdoor experience. The one other, often overlooked sensation, which like hearing is always engaged but requires our directed attention to appreciate fully, is our sense of smell.

Like all mammals, humans have a set of genes, numbering perhaps 800 on different chromosomes, that code for receptors of specific environmental chemical substances. Active in the membranes of our noses, when working in conjunction, these receptors provide the ability to detect thousands of specific scents. Other animals, like dogs and elephants, have several hundreds more olfactory receptor genes than we humans, so many as to be able to “see” their way around the world by scent alone. And there is another peculiarity of human olfaction. Dogs employ orthonasal scenting, smelling odors as they come in through their noses. This suits dogs well in exploring the world. Alternatively, human olfaction is primarily retronasal, best for sensing odors from our mouths exhaled back out the nose. Retronasal olfaction serves the function of better identifying things we eat, and is interpreted by humans as “flavor.” As we all know, dogs are far less discriminating diners, and eat many things we humans would find revolting. But humans are not without some orthonasal function. For us this serves primarily, but not exclusively, as warnings, such as for the detection of fire and skunks.

Because our orthonasal capacity is limited, if we want to smell something, we usually sniff in a generous volume of air close to the

substance being tested. Hiking along the trail, and sighting a particular plant or fungus, you are probably not close enough to smell it. You need to make a conscious effort to approach the object of interest, get close, and sniff. Even that degree of effort is often inadequate for us scent-impooverished humans to get the full experience. Crushing a small portion of the target organism between your fingers may be necessary to appreciate its odor.

So let us take a summer hike and find what there is to smell out there. For the most part, animal smells are unpleasant. Everyone is familiar with the sulfurous stink of a skunk. Should a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons decide to gather along your favorite stretch of the Trail, you may be overwhelmed by the stench if the wind blows from that direction. Any dead and decaying animal near your path will be offensively pungent. But less offensive and decidedly subtler, in late summer and fall where buck White-tailed Deer make their scrapes, you can detect the musk-like odor they leave behind.

The plant kingdom is considerably more nose-friendly than the animals. Many conifers issue aromatic compounds readily detected by walking through a grove of these trees. Most hikers have experienced the terpenes of pine scent. Often the concentrations of these chemicals permeate the air in pine woods, but sniffing crushed needles or pine sap will produce a more concentrated effect. Larch also has a pine-like odor. Hemlock needles are usually described as sweet smelling. The odor of cedars is well-known, and popular for chests storing blankets. Spruces produce mostly pleasant odors, but the crushed needles of White Spruce can smell like cat urine. Many deciduous trees are not very aromatic, but never miss the opportunity to break off a small branch of Black Birch and smell the wonderful root-beer odor.

In early spring, should you encounter Trailing Arbutus in flower, get down on the ground and sniff those tiny blossoms, which are as delightful as Honey Suckle. Other than that, many spring flowers, better known for bright colors, are not especially fragrant. But if you find Wild Ginger, cut out a small section of the rhizome



► *Wintergreen*

◄ *Milkweed*



growing just under the ground, scrape off the surface layer with your knife, and sniff the strong ginger odor. And while you are down there, find the thick, green leaves of Wintergreen and break one to sniff the teaberry fragrance, present in any season. Torn leaves of the invasive Garlic Mustard clearly smell like garlic, and broken tissue of Skunk Cabbage smells like its namesake. As we move into summer, more flowers are pleasantly aromatic. Sweet Pea, Wild Rose, Bee Balm, Fragrant Bedstraw, and Evening Primrose, are not uncommon and smell nice. Never miss a chance to sniff a milkweed because the flowers of all varieties are very sweet smelling. Similarly, there are many varieties of mint to



◄ *Pungent Cystoderma*

▼ *Stink Horn*



discover. And by late summer, early fall, look for the Sweet Goldenrod, unique among this large group of flowers, for the sweet-anise odor of its crushed narrow leaves.

Many people are surprised by the intensity and variety of odors from fungi. The aptly named Stinkhorn employs its rotten flesh odor to attract flies that scatter its spores. Crush a portion of the poisonous Citron Amanita and it smells like raw potato. The Pungent Cystoderma smells like green corn. More concentrated if dried, but noticeable fresh, the Aromatic Milky smells like maple syrup. The delectable Chanterelle smells like apricots, and the edible Abruptly-bulbous Agaricus boasts an almond-anise smell. Many other mushrooms are said to smell “earthy.”

▼ *Chanterelles*



And speaking of “earthy,” I am sure every hiker has enjoyed that great smell emanating from the ground after a rain. It is one of the quintessential outdoor experiences. The odor is especially apparent if the rain follows a dry spell. Thanks to researchers in Australia, we now know just what is responsible for this odor they called petrichor (from the Greek *petra* meaning rock, and *ichor*, the fluid flowing through the veins of the gods). The primary ingredients of petrichor are volatile oils manufactured by plants, oils which have accumulated in the soil. Another key ingredient of the smell after rain is geosmin, a by-product of metabolism of one of the main groups of soil bacteria, the Actinobacteria. The Australian researchers,

using high-speed photography, further documented the mechanism of release of these compounds. As large raindrops fall, they push air ahead of them and into the soil, before the water of the droplet spreads out on the ground. The air that penetrates the ground pushes apart soil particles freeing the trapped volatile odor-producing chemicals, which effervesce to the surface. The photography captured the fizzy bubbles coming up out of the ground through the rain droplet.

Interestingly, those plant oils suppress root growth, probably functioning as protection in dry times.

So as you hike the trail this summer, look at the scenery, listen to the birds and insects, but do not forget to sniff some flowers and fungi for the full sensory experience. And do take a hike after a rain to sample the petrichor and geosmin, the fragrance of Mother Earth.

Erratum: Thanks to Bill and Carol Klepack who correctly noted the Wood Thrush is not a ground nester, as stated in my last article. I meant to say Hermit Thrush, which does nest on the ground. 🍁



Send **address changes** to
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Hiking Sticks, Poles, Staffs - Do you need one or just want one?

Peg Fuller, Bullthistle Hiking Club, Chenango County

I always encourage people to bring a “hiking stick” on our group hikes. Do most people really need them? Better to ask what is the right hiking stick? What are you trying to accomplish? Balance, support, checking for proper footing, or maybe you think it is just one of the hiking accessories. I recently became impressed with handmade hiking sticks, the kind that have character. I have seen the hiking sticks that Art Sandberg has made and uses on hikes. He puts designs on them and carefully chooses the branch (sumac from what he has told me) and knows when to cut into the bark and when it is too dry and how to make a stick that will actually hold up year after year and hike after hike. Then David Sadler joined our

hikes and he has a special hiking stick, or staff if you prefer, that he has attached medallions to from the many places he has hiked across the country. That hiking stick can tell its own story. Then my cousin, Tom, gave me a hiking stick he had bought in Ohio. It was a handmade stick, not a staff, cut from a tree that had a vine growing around it. The maker cut the vine away leaving a stick with deep grooves and imprints from where the vine wrapped around the stick. The stick had a nice polish to it and to me it was not just any hiking stick. Of course, it has a blunt bottom end.

Even though it was a very snowy spring, I was happy to try my new special hiking stick out on a hike. We still had snow and ice on the ground. The hike seemed a bit more difficult for me, but perhaps it was just the ice and the hills. The one downhill was pretty snowy, and I found myself sitting down. On the following hike we encountered more spring snow (not my favorite) and ultimately ice and I hit the ground, not once, but twice. Hmm. This was getting old fast. I will admit, these were not the first times I have ever fallen hiking, but it seemed to be a bit too frequent. So, I started thinking, what is different with my hiking sticks?

I had been using store bought hiking sticks, which many hikers use. The “pole” or “stick” I use had the pointy tip exposed. When I hiked in the winter, it dug into the ice and snow. That gives me a little more grip and stability and it is what I am used to. Going back to the reason for using the stick, I like having one that can support me and stop me from slipping. I use it for creek crossings and up and down inclines and through uneven terrain.



Maryann Weiss

From left to right, author Peg Fuller with her vine stick, David Sadler with his travelogue stick of trail medallions, and Art Sandberg with one of his artistically decorated sticks.

it to a nice

for years, like Art and David’s personalized hiking sticks.

There is a wide variety of store bought hiking sticks or if you prefer, trekking poles. The collapsible hiking sticks are great for portability, but there are options you may or may not want. Some have extensions that have twist locks, and some have more of a snap lock. I have found with the twist lock ones, I couldn’t get the pole tight enough and now they are permanently expanded because they are tight enough now. Some poles will easily bend, or break given the slightest pressure, while others are made from stronger metals that can be more supportive. If you want to be able to cross a creek and have that pole “feel” the bottom for you and help you find the right footing, a point ended stick may get stuck between rocks and a cheaper stick might bend. The blunt bottom stick might allow you to slip on the ice, like I discovered. Even the handles, or grips, come in a variety of material. There are cork handles, plastic, polymer, etc.

I think part of my problem is relying on the hiking stick. I got used to the pointy ended stick gripping the ice for me so I wasn’t as cautious. It was easy to walk with the extra help. Maybe others are sure footed without it because they never relied on the crutch to begin with. Now that the snow has melted, I returned to the wooden handmade vine stick. I do remind myself to watch where I step and rely on being careful more than just assuming the stick will be the antidote to gravity.

Or perhaps I should just wear my micro spikes more often, but that is another story. 🍁

Roots - Real and Remembered

Story and Pictures by Eva M. Capobianco

Most artists need a day job to support themselves. In 2017, I was able to retire from mine, leaving more time for creating art. I also get to spend many long hours hiking and being inspired by our beautiful woods and hills. The “real” roots, found on trails and roads both near my home and during my travels, are combined with re-used bits of old furniture, windows, glass and other objects collected over the years. These sculptures are a continuation of themes I have been exploring for years.

The autobiographical series is new. These “remembered” roots are memories from my childhood and my youth, stitched into both words and images. The first in this series, “Blue Jeans, a True Story,” was inspired by a call for entries to a show exploring gender issues. The pieces that followed each share poignant moments that helped to form the creative person I have become.

Not every piece in the show contains a root, but this is the dominant connecting element in both these series. Even the two works from 2016 that were inspired by the poems of Michelle Courtney Berry and Diane Ackerman make reference to memories.

In recent years I have shifted easily between my sculptural and my cross stitched works, often combining the two when it felt appropriate. With this new luxury of time comes freedom to explore images and ideas more fully. I truly look forward to the work yet to come now that I am enjoying this third act of life.

In addition to my artwork, my other goal during these next few years is to hike the Finger Lakes Trail from end to end. I love a good challenge and in my younger days had hoped to hike the Appalachian Trail, but I was never able to accomplish it. Then a few years ago I found information about the FLT and began taking short hikes on the parts around Ithaca. Having completed most of maps 16, 17 & 18, I am now participating in the cross county hikes. The trail is a great source of inspiration and the volunteers do a fabulous job! In appreciation for their work keeping green spaces open for public use and maintaining our natural environment, 20% of all sales from this exhibit will be donated to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. 🍁

Eva M. Capobianco
www.evasculpture.com

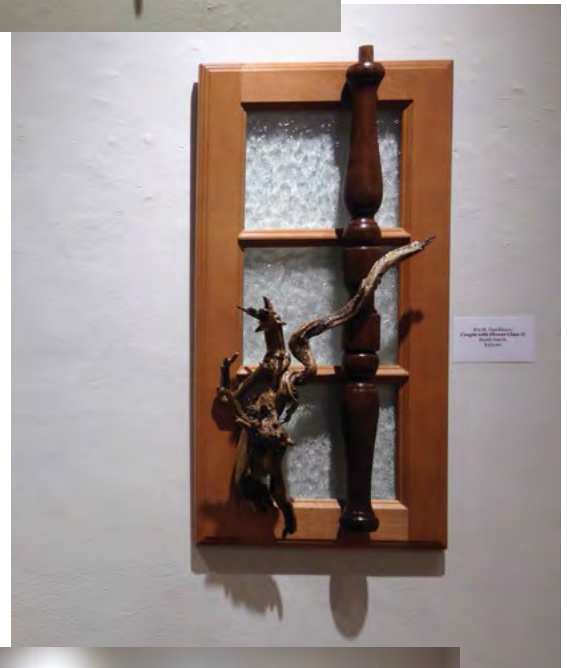
Exhibit title: Roots - Real and Remembered
State of the Art Gallery, 120 West State St
Ithaca, NY. 14850
607-277-1626
www.soagithaca.org

Eva and Quinn Wright at her opening reception, which brought in 200 people!

www.FingerLakesTrail.org



Unfortunately, Eva's exhibit will be open only during the month of May and will be closed before the magazine is printed, but a tour of her website may inspire one of us to consider a purchase. Editor



WANTED

A new member for the finance committee, which meets by phone typically once a month, for an hour or often less. It will be helpful if this volunteer has an accounting background or at least knowledge. Respond to Quinn Wright, qwright@fingerlakestrail.org

FLT SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The FLT has a few pieces of equipment that have been donated over the years, but are not being used by current Alley Cat crews. Let's make some space in our little garage next to the office.

Similar in operation to a silent auction, anyone interested in any piece submit your donation (pledge) intention to the office and the highest donor will get the piece indicated.

1. Rototiller, Simplicity System 1003
2. Mower, Tuff Cut 22, High wheel mower, electric start
3. Generator, DeVilbiss 5000 watt, 10 hp Briggs & Stratton engine, Model# 19E412 Large generator on wheels. This would be a good generator for a homeowner.

None of this equipment has run in recent years, so each is offered AS IS.

Pete Wybron, Quartermaster - prwybron@rochester.rr.com

TRAIL SPONSOR NEEDED

Looking for a co-sponsor for the section between Access 3, Aulls Rd., and Access 4, the hamlet of South Bradford, on Map M13, to work singly or together with another individual who has expressed interest in maintaining the section but likely cannot do it all alone. Requires coordinating work and assuming varying levels of responsibility depending on each other's schedules and abilities. This lovely section is 5.4 miles total, with about 4.4 miles off-road on level or gently climbing state forest (Birdseye Hollow State Forest) 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. Please contact Regional Trail Coordinator *Lynda Rummel* at ljrassoc@roadrunner.com.

OLD PORTAGE TRESTLE DISMANTLED

With the new steel arch bridge over the Genesee River completed and opened to traffic on December 11, Norfolk Southern's contractors wasted no time dismantling the original 1875 span in southern Letchworth State Park. Crews worked through the winter to cut and take apart the steel trestle structure. The iconic bases with "1875" cast into them were set aside for preservation, while the rest of the old bridge was cut up for scrap. Much of the scrap metal was loaded into high-side gondolas on the Depew, Lancaster & Western in Batavia for outbound shipment. By mid-April the construction crews and metal workers had packed up their cranes and equipment from the area around the new steel arch. The next phase of construction includes rebuilding trails and reopening access roads, while restoring the landscape and planting trees. The new \$75 million steel arch span is 963 feet long and can support the standard 286,000 pound freight cars with ease. Trains can travel across the new bridge at 30 m.p.h. in comparison to the previous restricted 10 mph limitation.

Reprinted with permission from the newsletter of the Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, info from John Kucko

ASP FLT CLEANUP

Don Bergman

Members of the Foothills Trail Club worked over a weekend in early May to clean up their many miles of trail within Allegany State Park. Participants for different spells of time were Gus Phillips, Frank Occhiuto, Richard Swank, Lori Chiarilli, Nick Scarano and Don Bergman. Donna Flood and Lois Justice were cooks for us in the cabin the park let us use for the weekend, in addition to lopping on the trails between bouts of cooking and cleaning up.



Lori Chiarilli

We cut and removed about 150 trees from the trail, leaners plus trees blown over by winds, roots and all. The hemlocks were the worst because of their many branches.

Help Wanted: FLTC Treasurer

The Treasurer has custody of the funds of the FLTC. Almost all of the day to day tasks are handled by the office staff. Typically this position will require no more than 5 - 10 hours of volunteer time per month – often much less. Check writing, printing and signing may take 1 hour; this can be done from home as long as you have a computer and a printer that can work with the QuickBooks. Finance meetings are once per month and rarely exceed an hour. Financial reports and bank statements review occur monthly and generally take at most 2 hours. Budget preparation is done with the Executive Director and usually involves 2 or 3 meetings of about 2 hours each (August, September, October.) There are 5 Board meetings at which attendance is not required; however, the annual General Membership meeting in spring is required and the annual Board Retreat Weekend in November is highly recommended. Entering the annual budget into QuickBooks occurs early in January and the time is dependent upon skill and experience but is likely to take about 4 hours. While a financial bookkeeping or accounting background is desirable, it is not mandatory.

Required actions are:

- a) Signing checks from home as long as you have a computer and a printer that can work with the QuickBooks Software.
- b) Prepare accurate monthly financial reports using QuickBooks
- c) Present to the membership at the annual meeting a complete written report of the FLTC financial record for the latest fiscal year.
- d) Responsible for the required Federal and State tax returns, reports for tax exempt property, reports for the State Charities Bureau and the Federal and State employer's payroll reports.
- e) Serve as ex officio non-voting member of the Finance Committee.
- f) Participate in an annual audit of the FLTC financial report.

Questions? Or to volunteer, please? Contact Quinn Wright at qwright@fingerlakestrail.org or 716/ 826-1939. 🍁

Gift In Honor of

Don Berman

from

Mary Jean & Keith Taylor

Gift In Honor of

Harry Clar

from

Lonnie Clar

Gifts In Memory of

Joel Mabie

from

Noah Schadt

Ed O'Shea caught this butterfly on a hat on the head of Tony Rodriguez.



Wally Wood Memorial Hike - April 28th, 2018

Theresa J. Evans, Co-Leader

Photos by Larry Blumberg

Jay and I started the hike from our end destination, meeting at Junction Rts. 13,34,96 parking area near Enfield Creek, just outside of Robert H. Treman State Park. Coming from Syracuse, we along with two other local ADK members arrived an hour early, likely due to having taken a short cut around Dryden. However, before long folks were streaming into the parking area with a total of 24 hikers to honor Wally Wood. We had representation from Triple Cities Hiking Club and Cayuga Trails Club and probably others. Our day started in the sun with some rain in the forecast.

We recognized Wally Wood, a founding member of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, who passed away in August of 1996. After self-introductions, we organized into six car pools, with an 11-minute shuttle to the start of the hike at the Stevenson Forest Preserve parking area off Trumbull Corners Road.

This was a quintessential hike along the Finger Lakes Trail. It had components of what one might expect to see, hear, and walk upon on the FLT. We started in the Finger Lakes Land Trust's Stevenson Forest Preserve in nice woods, then onto a road walk along Trumbull Corners Road, turning onto Porter Hill Road, which went uphill. Then we detoured onto trail to the Rieman Woods Bivouac Area, which is owned by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, and again a bit of uphill climb.



Spring arrived so recently after lingering wintry weather that the spring wildflower season seems to be compressed this year. Bloodroot (break a stem and understand its name) is a typical very early short-time bloomer.

We next crossed Porter Hill Road once more. We entered the Bock-Harvey Forest Preserve owned by the FLTC (a gift from Robert & Beatie Bock family). We did take a detour onto the

Bock-Harvey Blue Trail. Our target was the Locust Lean-to, a respite, a useable open-air latrine, and a vantage point for the magnificent landscape. Given the purists in the group, we retraced our steps back to the FLT. This forest was full of birds chirping and Blue Cohosh, carpeting the ground around the trail.

Before we departed from Locust Lean-to, Wendy Stevenson, an FLT Board member and a descendant of the Stevenson and Bock families, shared her family background. The Harveys had been



Dutchman's breeches or britches are usually a little later, but spring tried to happen all in one week this year!

one of the earliest settling families in the Enfield locale. They married into the Stevenson and Bock families. They were farmers and carpenters. It is through these families' donations that we have these two wonderful preserves.

We had another short road walk onto Rockwell Road, then into woods onto private property going past Pinecreek Campground. We crossed Hines Road and back onto trail through a stone gate onto private property, then entered the back woods of Robert H. Treman State Park.

We passed through open fields, hemlock forests, bubbling creeks, red pine plantations, and a designated CCC camp. There were many more spring flowers to see including Trout Lily, Bloodroot, Coltsfoot, Wild Daffodils, Spring Beauties, Rue Anemone, and Hepatica. Though we had a few light showers along our way when we stopped for lunch the sun had returned.

► The delightful stone wall built as a gateway to the Bock-Harvey Preserve was featured in our last "Name that Map." Here Triple Cities hikers Kevin Normile, Shannon Sweeney, and Steven Harlost (left to right) enjoy the spot.



▼ Hepatica is typically one of the earliest and ranges from white to lavender.



On making our way forward, we did encounter again some clouds and increasing drizzle, with the clouds bursting forth with a downpour. Fortunately, we had arrived at the Park's Old Mill, providing us shelter and the specular waterfall behind the Mill, capturing our attention.

As the rain slowed, we ventured forth away from the Old Mill. We had about another 2-3 miles to go, but the clouds parted and sun returned. We went past the Sierra Shelter. A beautiful Hemlock had come down right about here right on the trail, which we respectfully walked around.

We ended our hike where we had met that morning at Rts 13,34, and 96 walking under the highway bridge and along Enfield Creek. This section of trail had a few more flowers to be seen if you looked closely, Wild Ginger, Dutchman Breeches, and the first leafing out of Early Meadow Rue.



Amazing what an aggressive vine did to this young maple as it grew up.

Members of the group shuttled the drivers to their cars, so all were back and on the road home by 3:00 p.m. Again, a quintessential hike along the FLT. 🍁

Theresa J. Evans

Trail Topics: Alley Cat Season is Underway

Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews & Construction



In spite of the cold, rain, snow, sleet, wind and anything else mother nature put us through this spring, the Basswood Alley Cat crew led by Roy Dando and Rick Roberts were out during the weekend of April 28th starting construction of the new lean-to.

We can only hope they got to enjoy some of the sunshine we saw in the western part of the state that graced the skies the following afternoon.

While it is still early in the season, it is not too soon to start looking at projects for 2019. At the Trail Management Team meeting in Canandaigua on April 7th, two additional projects were brought to my attention that are excellent candidates for next year's schedule including an erosion project on Map B3 and a trail improvement project on Maps O1 & O2. This is in addition to a lean-to that is scheduled for Little Rock City on Map M2, from an anonymous donor, and another party that would like to fund a lean-to or a replacement of an existing structure in central New York.

While it may seem that we have a full slate already planned for next year, things change and it is good to know what our community would like to do in making the Finger Lakes Trail System a destination hiking trail known throughout the country. Currently, I have a list of about 6-10 other projects that may become Alley Cats in the future as some of the requests require resources and permissions that are not yet available and may take a few years to acquire. Please don't hesitate to let me know what you would like to see improved on the trail so we can make these realities.

Matt Branneman and the Durfee Hill Alley Cat crew is looking at a late August, early September date for the trail improvement project southeast of Ithaca. Volunteers can contact Matt to register at mattbranneman@gmail.com 🍁

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



◀ Roy Dando standing in the privy pit, with Tom Harvey on the left, and Zarin Kinsella on the right.

Scott Laufer



Roy Dando

Back: Dan Bradshaw, Don Sutherland, Bruce Coon, Rick Roberts, Pete Stapleton, Mike Fuller, Peg Fuller

Front: Colleen Stapleton, Don June, Tom Harvey, Zarin Kinsella

Basswood

Roy Dando

The first phase of construction of the Basswood Lean-To has been completed. We danced through the raindrops all weekend without getting too terribly wet while we carted (literally) all the supplies and tools necessary to build the foundation and floor structure. Some lumber was carried a mile inland from the road, while other supplies were taken by ATV across an adjacent landowner's property, with his permission, of course.

As there were 9 people Friday and 15 on Saturday we also dug the DEEP hole for the open air privy as well as clearing and blazing the side trails for the lean-to, privy and water source. We also dug a few ditches to help funnel the water away once the roof is on. Phase 2 is scheduled for the weekend of May 18-20. On this weekend we will raise the structure, install the privy and build the fire pit and picnic table. This lean-to is strategically situated in Basswood State Forest on Map M25 about 10 miles from the Ludlow Lean-To and 10 miles from the town of Bainbridge. 🍁



Roy Dando

Trail Topics: Trail Preservation Report

Dave Newman, Vice President of Trail Preservation

You've probably heard or read a lot about the effects of the tax bill passed by Congress in December. An April 30 *Forbes Magazine* article "Charity in the Age of Trump" reports that the impact of a doubling of the amount a couple may donate to their heirs tax free to \$22.4 million, combined with changes to the standard deduction and a new \$10,000 limit on deduction of state and local property and income taxes, could cost charities as much as \$20 billion a year in donations.

What's it mean to our FLTC activities? That's hard to tell. Relative to day to day conference operations, we've budgeted for \$76,000 in contribution income for 2018 and if it doesn't come in we will need to spend down some more of our accumulated savings, in other words run a deficit. We can only hope that members and friends will continue to contribute more than their base membership dues, whether or not they get a tax deduction for the donation.

For our trail preservation activity, the impact of the tax bill is harder to predict. Our Sidote Trail Preservation fund has been well supported over the last few years both from living donors and from bequests. This support has given us the financial flexibility to approach trail preservation in a brave new way we couldn't have dreamed of before. Now we can outright purchase key strategic parcels if we need to. While our primary strategy has been and will continue to be to seek voluntary landowner donation of Trail Access Easements, those won't always be forthcoming. We've reported on recent loans to Finger Lakes Land Trust so that they could purchase property that DEC will eventually add to Danby State Forest, and our own purchase of property on White Church Road to be added to Shindagin Hollow State Forest. Together that represents around \$320,000 of Sidote funds that are currently tied up protecting those parcels. Clearly, we can't "buy" the trail, but having funds to protect key strategic links like these if a purchase is the only available option has greatly strengthened our position. Our current available investment balance is around \$500,000 that can be put to use as opportunities arise.

If you are a potential FLTC supporter at least 70 ½ years old, there is one gifting technique that did not change in the new tax law but may become more useful to you due to the changes in itemized deductions. If you have retirement accounts that are subject to "Required Minimum Distribution" rules, you may transfer as much as \$100,000 a year directly from your IRA to a charity

such as FLTC and it will qualify as a RMD, without counting as income on your tax return. Thus, that traditional IRA (or 401K or 403B) money that was never taxed and has grown "tax free" may be donated, "tax free." Say for example you would like to donate \$5,000 to the Sidote Fund this year. Given the new higher itemized deduction levels, it might not get you a tax deduction if you just send us a check. But, if instead you instruct your IRA custodian to send that same \$5,000 directly to FLTC you pay no taxes on it, and it counts as part of your annual required minimum distribution. Also, since it does not show as income on your tax return, if you are subject to "high income" Medicare premium surcharges, which can be as much as \$10,286 per couple, this technique may also reduce those surcharges. So for our over 70 ½ supporters with regular (not Roth) IRAs or 401Ks, the advice would be check with your tax advisor; you may find that a direct donation from an IRA to FLTC and other charities you want to support makes financial sense. 🍁

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

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		

Trail Topics: Map Updates

Greg Farnham, Director of Mapping



Irene Szabo

Greg Farnham at the Arizona Railway Museum in Chandler

to a recent Trail Preservation success, a hunting closure was permanently removed from M18. Both the GPX and PDF maps were updated and the Rev Date was changed to 4/14/18.

Since the last issue, five map updates were published. On M27, the sponsor list on the back was updated. On B3, the NYS DEC provided a new parking spot at Access 12 for 2-3 cars. This feature was added to both the B3 and B2 maps, as Access 12 is at their intersection. The PDF and GPX maps were updated but the revision dates were not changed. A new fall hunting closure and associated bypass route were added to M12, and the Rev Date was changed to 4/1/18. Thanks

Over the past year, we have tried to write about the history of our maps and their evolution from monochrome, wheel- or chain-measured hand drawn routes on blue paper to our current multi-color, GPS-accurate tracks on waterproof polyester, available in GPS-loadable files and electronic PDF files that include geospatial reference data. Until now, the missing piece in my understanding of this evolution was the initial conversion to digital maps. Because bits and pieces of the earliest digital work were (and may still be) embedded in the map data we now work with, I knew that someone from outside the FLTC had a part in it. Fortunately, my predecessor in the mapping role agreed to document his recollection in the following. 🍁

Contact: Greg Farnham
FLTCmapping@outlook.com

The Transition from One-Color, Hand Drawn Maps to Our Present Maps

Joe Dabes ("Java Joe")

In 1978 I ordered a complete set of maps from the FLTC to use on my first end to end hike. That year I backpacked from Allegany State Park to Watkins Glen in 14 days. These maps were hand drawn black ink maps on heavy blue paper (blue paper because it was more difficult to photocopy). Who generated this complete set of maps? I seem to recall the initials SCW on these maps, who was likely Stephen C. Weber, according to Ron Navik and Irene Szabo.

I got involved with mapping in the year 2000 when I helped Howard Beye GPS some of the FLT near my home in the Dryden area. He carried a \$3,000 30+ pound Trimble backpack GPS unit loaned to him by the National Park Service and the North Country Trail Association. It used a heavy lead-acid battery as a source of power. He worked its controls while my main job was to take him back to his vehicle at the start of our hike. I remember several times we had to stop as the satellites were not providing sufficient accuracy. We waited and chatted about 15 minutes each time.

As I was recently retired I was curious about GPSing so purchased an early Garmin GPS unit. I recall that it was not easy to learn how to use! However, when I finally learned its basics I volunteered in 2003 to GPS the portion of the Conservation Trail that was not part of the main FLT. Wife Kathy and I used two vehicles and over several days managed to hike those trails procuring the data, which I sent to Howard. Much later I found



Kathy Brennan

out that the accuracy of that data was pretty poor (within about 500'), but better than "guessing" where the trail was on the old hand drawn black ink maps.

In 2005 I recall an article in the FLT News that asked for volunteers to assume some of Howard's jobs. One was to generate maps using GPS data and computer software. I volunteered. At that time the maps for the section of the FLT that was also part of the North Country National Scenic Trail were generated by an individual using a graphic arts program with the help of a light table. Contour lines on those maps were only shown in the vicinity of the trail as it was so tedious to trace them out! The base maps that were not part of the NCNST had been preliminarily done by the Institute for Advanced Geospatial Technology (IAGT) in Auburn using ArcGIS, the computer program we use today. FLTC paid \$2,000 for those maps to be generated by an intern from Cayuga Community College.

I didn't want to do tracing on a light table so I asked IAGT what it might cost to have the other half of our base maps done in ArcGIS. They replied that the cost would be \$4,500 as the first batch of maps required more of their professionals' time than they had estimated. I got the approval of the FLTC Board and volunteered part of the money as doing this would make my job easier. *As it turns out, we are lucky that Joe became interested in doing our maps internally, because now IAGT is a defunct program. Greg Farnham*

ArcGIS was not easy to learn how to use to say the least (learning Microsoft Excel was so much simpler)! However, with the help of a free online course and Tiffany Stram (mapping person for NCTA) answering my sometimes stupid questions very patiently I gradually learned the basics for the work I needed to do.

The initial work was most hectic and time consuming. Next were a couple of thousands of hours of work: first were reviews of the IAGT base maps by all the appropriate sponsors across the trail. Also constant correspondence with IAGT as a number of their base maps were quite screwed up.

In 2006 the maps were released for sale. I provided updates to the FLTC Office by mailing them on CDs or DVDs.

In 2009 I obtained a partner, Don McClimans, who had a strong background in computer science. He set us up to share our mapping files with the file sharing program Syncplicity, not only sharing with each other, but also with the FLTC office where our maps were printed; thus ended the snail mailing of files to the office. Don also helped me with generating several hundred tax parcel maps across the state that showed where the FLT was located and who owned the parcel. He used the scripting language Python to speed up map generation while my main job was to obtain the latest tax parcel information from the 20 counties our trail runs through. This was not fun; for some counties it took months of emails and phone calls to get usable data. For a couple of counties it was like pulling teeth!

Besides all the work with ArcGIS I GPSed the main trail several times to obtain more accurate data. Garmin came out with a new model with higher accuracy, the GPSmap 60CSx. And we found that wearing an external amplified antenna on top of our hats gave even better accuracy, generally within 15 to 20 feet, just as good as the much more expensive Trimble units. I particularly liked doing the GPS work as it gave me the opportunity to traverse the lovely trails again and again, much of it backpacking with one of my two Golden Retrievers as my pack animal. By 2013 I had walked the main FLT ten times and all the branch trails at least twice.

Although I still do some GPSing of new trails and update the Passport maps with ArcGIS I've turned over most of the ArcGIS work to Greg Farnham and Jo Taylor. I thank them for doing a most commendable job.

One of the fun things was that I got to know all the Regional Trail Coordinators, FLT staff, Board members, and many sponsors. It's a great pleasure to have worked with so many great people! 🍁

SUPPORT THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL AND GET A FREE MEMBERSHIP

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



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

You can also join online at: northcountrytrail.org

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

The NCTA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. Thank You for Your Support.

Trail Topics: Trail Management Updates

Once again, your editor has to compile news items from the field, since we have no Trail Management Vice President. Come on, somebody, volunteer! So many of what used to be Steve Catherman's jobs have been parceled out to others that it's no longer anywhere near overwhelming. Please! We need this volunteer.

Sponsor needs and other news:

Map M9 **One or two new sponsors needed for new trail:**

About 5 miles of trail both north and south of Interstate 86, wooded 1.5 miles from Hopkins Rd. east to tunnel under interstate, plus mile of wooded spur trail to Fitzgerald Rd. then south of tunnel another 1.5 easy miles on park trails, then 1 mile road walk to Doorley Rd. Some mowing needed at Hopkins Rd. end, but Peter Wybron will take care of that. Switchbacks on trail in and out of gully in section after Hopkins Rd., plus some on blue spur trail to Fitzgerald. Trail segments can be split up. Contact Regional Coordinator Peter Wybron to volunteer or ask questions: prwybron@rochester.rr.com

Maps L1 and L2, Letchworth Trail:

Musical chairs has been played among trail sponsors on the Letchworth Trail. Don Maryanski has taken the northernmost 3 miles, while Cate Concannon continues to tend from Access C to D, and D to E, but she's considering retiring from D to E.

Donnie Graham has exchanged the north half of E to F with John Cannon, a new member, for a section further south, on Map L2, from I to K, formerly Carl Luger's. One notes that Donnie took a nearly level towpath/railbed and road walk for his future.

Runner Eric Eagan has adopted the south half of E to F, Bob Kopfman continues to tend access points F to I. Scott Brooks continues to take care of access K south to Whiskey Bridge.

We do have an opening, however! There is about a 1.4 mile section of nice level railbed/towpath south of Whiskey Bridge, now part of the main trail on either Map M6 or M7, that has received no care for over a year now, and deserves it. It's also part of the Genesee Valley Greenway, so is rough-maintained maybe once a year with mowing by state park forces, but stick pick-up and, especially, bush clipping to expose fresh blazes is desperately needed. This is a great section to break in on for a volunteer new to trail sponsoring.

Contact the Regional Trail Coordinator for the Letchworth Trail Irene Szabo treeweenie@aol.com

Bullthistle News

The Bullthistle Hiking Club maintains 35+ miles of main FLT and blue blazed side trails in central Chenango County, from the entrance to Bowman Lake State Park (Map M24), to State Rte 26 (Map M22) in the Otselic Valley. Presently we have a full slate of Trail Maintainers (19 - several are couples), covering the white and blue blazed sections. We also maintain the Perkins and Pharsalia Woods Lean-tos.

2017 trail projects included building a short spur from Perkins Lean-to to a seasonal road, creating a nice loop. A second project was replacing a 16 foot bridge in Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area (Map M23).

Two planned projects on the 2018 agenda are replacement of a small bridge on M24 in McDonough State Forest, and building a trail in coordination with the DEC at a new viewing platform near Plymouth Reservoir in Pharsalia Woods SF. This will be a National Trails Day project.

One of our members and trail maintainers, Larry Chesebro, has developed a tick removal kit which can be found in register boxes in our Chenango County section and beyond. He's very willing to share and make more. Contact me if you are interested.

Tom Bryden - Bullthistle HC Trails Chair - co/RTC for central Chenango snbdodger@yahoo.com

New sponsor!

Susan Acker, a brand new member, saw that the Cobb property on Map M4 near Ellicottville needed a new sponsor in the first magazine issue she received. She has walked it and is willing to adopt it, hurray! She's so enthused she's begun work with one wrist in a cast. 🍁



Peg Fuller

At the suggestion of the local health department, Larry Chesboro of the Bullthistle Hiking Club made up tick identification and removal kits at his own expense, which the club has distributed to all of their register boxes.



Trail Topics: "Oh, Go Take A Hike!"

Lynda Rummel, Vice President of Trail Quality, RTC Bath-Watkins Glen

When I go to the gym and work out, I like to listen to TED talks. I park my smart phone in an armband that I wrap around a container of wipes, park the can in the water bottle holder on a machine, pull out a wipe to hold in each hand on the handles, and move the can and the wipes with me as I go from one machine to the next. I can't watch the screen on my smart phone while exercising, but it's easy to listen (all you need to do is download the TED app and connect your ear buds; the talks are free) and, if I'm pretending to be busy, I can let the app select the next talk I listen to, which is often on the same or similar topic. This is how I came to hear a talk by neuroscientist Wendy Suzuki about "The brain changing benefits of exercise," a related talk by behavioral and learning scientist Marily Oppezzo called, "Want to be more creative? Go for a walk," and another related talk, by a woman described as a "business innovator," Nilofer Merchant, called "Got a meeting? Talk a walk." Wow, three TED talks about the physiological, psychological, and, somewhat out in left field, I thought, the *business* benefits of the simple act of walking.

Now, I'm on a mission to research the health benefits of hiking, just as I'm on a mission to research the health benefits of nature, as a way to promote hiking to schools, communities, and public health officials along the trail, so anything related to walking gets my attention. I wanted to take notes but had to rely on my memory, which I hoped was being improved by the strength building exercises I was doing. This situation is full of little ironies: I wanted to learn about the health benefits of walking but wasn't walking (I can't stand the treadmill, so it's not one of the machines I use). But I would be hiking later, and when I'm hiking, I don't want to listen to anything but the sounds of nature around me, not even TED talks.

Knowing about my new passion, a friend sent me a link to a recent *Tech Times* online article by Aaron Mamiit that asserts that "Sitting Too Much [Is] Linked to Memory Problems and Higher Dementia Risk." Yikes! ...the same points that neuroscientist Wendy Suzuki said, in her TED talk, that her research proved. Both writers argue that with too much sitting, there are real physiological changes to the brain and although exercise is the best solution, even just standing can help prevent the changes that occur if you spend as little as three hours a day on your back end. When I got home, I found the April 15th issue of *BottomLine* with an article entitled, "The Afternoon Slump is Worse than You Think," by Daniel Pink, which included the following recommendation for how to handle the apparently inevitable mid-day slump: "If napping is not an option, take a few minutes for a short, invigorating walk, ideally in nature...." Hey, isn't that the very definition of a hike?! "Go take a hike" suddenly means a lot more than I thought!

I am beginning to feel that I just can't get away from a deluge of information about walking, especially walking in nature, and the large number and wide variety of health benefits associated with it. Whether it's to cool off from a tense discussion, heat up

the creative part of your brain, hold a more productive "meeting" with a colleague, or shake off that afternoon slump, it seems that a hike in nature is incredibly beneficial. This is pretty darn exciting, because it means that our trail system not only contributes economically to the communities which it passes, it also contributes to the health of those communities and the individuals in them. Now that's something to feel proud about.

It cheers me no end to see that the Livingston County Park, just below the county campus of various departments' buildings, has a good population of employees taking a walk during the lunch hour, and they are briefly on the Letchworth Trail of the FLT System, too! It's a gorgeous park with lots of very old and large oaks, walnuts, and a few hemlocks, and connects to the adjacent state park at the far end of a loop. Editor 🍁

The County Park portion at the north end of our Letchworth Trail features wonderful old growth trees just above the river gorge below, to the right. This was part of the Robert Morris estate; hence, the name Mt. Morris, and the park walk offers some of the very few huge old oaks, both

red and white, plus hemlocks and white pines along this very long branch trail. Livingston County employees often take a walk in the county park adjacent to their campus over lunch hour. The rest of the Letchworth Trail offers many large old trees, but they aren't the ones which were growing there before the European invasion, because farming and logging reached as far as they could toward the edge.



Irene Szabo

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

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

Branch Trails:

#108, Irene McCarty of Rochester (#358 main trail)

Main Trail:

None to date this year

Updates:

Shannon Holliday, Mexico(N.Y.), plans to hike sections of the trail. Octavia Sola of Trumansburg, plus Dan Grant and Richard Gross plan to hike the main trail this season. Jeff Kuhn of Williamson plans to begin his main trail hike in segments over the next several years. James Webb and Tatum Del Bosco have expressed interest in hiking the main trail.

Comments

I am often asked where to start for those hiking in segments. The usual answer could be at the beginning (or end but I do not like reading my map backwards). I didn't do it that way and many other day hikers don't either.

I recommend Scott Geiger's' detailed, informative, interesting trail journal. He is over half-way finished with his main trail hike. His comments, photos, map details are wonderfully helpful.

<https://scottgeiger.com/tag/m12/> This one is about M12 which is one of my favorite areas to hike.

If you have a favorite map to hike let me know, including why and with photos if you have them.

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 for our magazine.

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. Note: delete Irene Szabo from the list, since she is moving further from the 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!! Contact me to get the car spotter list.



A Happy Celebration

A Note from Gary Shaw

On May 3, 1998, I met my wife Penny on a hike on Map M6 from just south of Portageville to Rice Road. We hiked together thereafter and were married in September 2000. She finished the Trail in 1999 (#99) and I finished in 2001, #138. We have maintained a section of trail on Map 13 along Birdseye Hollow Road just about ever since.

On May 3 this year if weather cooperates, we would like to recreate our first hike together going from Access point 6 back to point 4 (about 11 miles). Since we live in Marion, Wayne County, we are hoping not to drive two vehicles. Is there any chance there are any trail angels that we might contact for that part of the Trail?

As it turns out, Irene Szabo (E2E #30) got up early on May 3rd to spot them for their anniversary hike.

Note: Penny Shaw is the daughter of Mary Years #61 end-to-end. You may have sat on her memorial bench on Map M13. Mary was a great friend

of Ed Sidote. She kept detailed albums of her main trail and county hike series hikes which I use regularly for photos. 🍁



Mary Years (#61 and Penny's mother), Gary behind Penny, and Ed Sidote.

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

2017 Donors

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference gratefully acknowledges the support of all our members and donors, and especially wish to recognize the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their generous support during 2017. The amounts listed include contributions to any FLTC fund. We have done our best to be accurate in spelling names as well as making sure we got everyone in the right categories. We apologize if some mistakes have crept in; please let your editor know.

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1. The name of the insurance carrier is Chubb Insurance.
2. The cost of the insurance to be paid during January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018 is \$725.
3. The indemnification insurance contract covers any person who has been, now is, or shall become a duly elected director or trustee, a duly elected or appointed officer, an employee, committee member, whether or not they are salaried, any other person acting on behalf of the Conference or at the direction of an officer or board of managers of the Conference.

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New Yorkers Win A Bunch of NCTA Annual Awards

This year the North Country Trail Association held its annual Celebration in conjunction with its partner in Ohio, the Buckeye Trail Association, the last weekend in April. Awards at a national level were presented one evening, and some of our own volunteers did very well indeed.

Rising Star - CHARLES SCHUTT II

Charlie is now in his second year as VP of Finance for the Finger Lakes Trail. He accepted this responsibility directly out of his Masters Degree Program at the University of Buffalo in Accounting. He has brought a much needed younger perspective to our Board as well as a professional viewpoint. His skill set is difficult to find in a volunteer and he has indicated that he is into this commitment for the long haul. His thinking is always focused on what makes the best business sense to protect both the FLT and the NCT that runs upon it.



Eliz Schutt

Vanguard - REGION 7 NY DEC

The portions of the NCNST carried on the Finger Lakes Trail through five central New York counties are contained within Region 7 of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC). This amounts to 160 miles of continuous, largely off-road footpath offering some of the best hiking and backpacking in New York.



John Clancy

We are fortunate to have wonderful support for the trail from the personnel of DEC Region 7 and would like to nominate them for the NCTA Vanguard Award. We would like to name three who have been particularly helpful:

John M, Clancy, Supervising Forester
Dan Little, Forester I
Jonathan Holbein, Real Property Supervisor

Here are examples of the help these friends have provided over years:

Work with us through planned logging operations, planning fewest possible trail crossings by skid roads, advising on necessary trail closures and temporary reroutes during logging operations, enforcing trail clean-up/restoration arrangements.

Assistance in planning and layout of trail routes, bridges, lean-tos, etc. Assistance with construction and remediation projects that are beyond the capabilities of our crews, for example, a two day project to clear cliff-side vegetation that had blocked an iconic view from the trail.

Support of the addition of footpath (ONLY!) designation for the FLT/NCT to the State Forest Strategic Plan.

Invaluable support and advice regarding land transfer projects where the FLTC and the State can provide permanent protection for the trail.

Sweep - MIKE SCHLICHT

Currently Mike is the Director of Crews and Construction for the Finger Lakes Trail, which includes hundreds of miles of the NCT in up-state New York. In that role, he organizes four or five major projects along the trail each year, shelters, bridges, or trail relocations, but he has been preparing for this state-wide role for years.

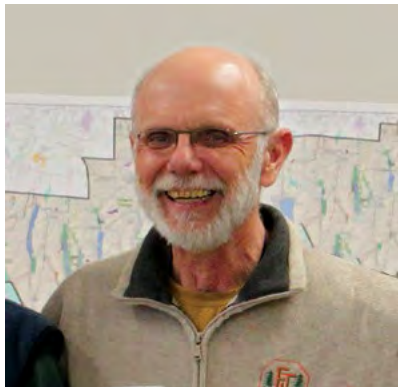


In 2002 he worked on an American Hiking Society project building new NCT Trail and stairways in the Pictured Rocks of Michigan, while 2003 brought him to another AHS "vacation" stabilizing the NCT in McConnells Mills State Park in Pennsylvania. In 2007 he brought his knowledge to a Finger Lakes Trail "Alley Cat" project, building steps, ladders, and benched trail in the challenging Holland Ravines, and he has continued ever since to work on N.Y. projects. Meanwhile Mike has been active organizing and leading hikes and GPSing new trail segments, most of it done very quietly in the background.

Lifetime Achievement - TOM REIMERS

Tom has performed most of the biggest volunteer jobs for both the Finger Lakes Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail. In fact, in 1990, he was President of both Boards simultaneously, and spent many years before and after that as a board member for each. He was also editor of the FLT News for ten years, has seemingly "always" been a devoted trail worker on his adopted sections, and long edited the very popular Guide to the Finger Lakes Trail that his home hiking club has published for decades.

Tom also created the first-ever promotional program for public events for the FLT, a large slide show with script, so that volunteers all over the state could share the show with any group, and he has long been a valued hike leader with admirable skills at explaining plants and birds along the way. He has also been a longtime volunteer with the Ithaca-based Finger Lakes Land Trust, contributing in no small part to the valuable protection partnership that both “Finger Lakes” organizations have enjoyed.



Blue Blazes Benefactor - HELEN BROOKS

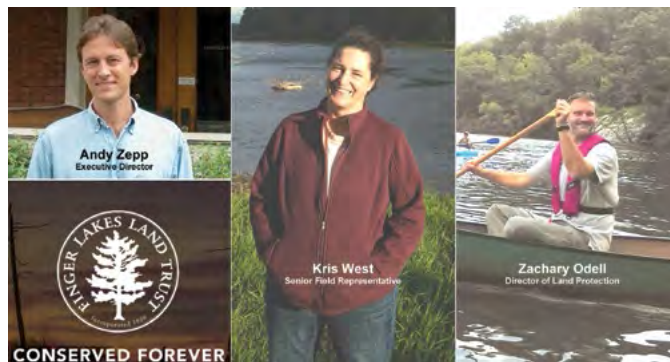
Helen Brooks was a Rochester member who worked quietly for the Finger Lakes Trail, mostly providing office help to Dorothy Beye when the FLT office was in her home for 17 years. Helen was quiet, the very model for the Sweep Award, but attended many of the FLT weekend gatherings and hiked with her local club. What few knew was that she was an early and rare woman lawyer who played a major role in Rochester’s Lawyers Publishing Cooperative.



After her death in 2016 we learned that the FLT was the recipient of a major bequest, one which has come in several large amounts, totalling by now nearly \$600,000, earmarked for trail preservation. The timing could not have been better: over the last two years the FLT has been able to lend major sums to the Finger Lakes Land Trust to help them preserve major parcels along the Trail, parcels which will eventually be sold to the state to add to their state forests, and even has bought one parcel themselves. In each of these cases, the money will come back to the FLT so that they can preserve other vulnerable and critical properties along the Trail. How frustrating not to be able to thank Helen!

Friend of the Trail - FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST

If a viewer was sitting in a canoe in the middle of Cayuga Lake, looking southward toward the thriving City of Ithaca, they would see a high ridge of hills from their right side, dipping south and appearing on the far horizon south of Ithaca and then rising toward their left side. Think of it as a crescent of high hilltops, almost all wooded and/or in green agricultural fields. The name of the project thus became THE EMERALD



NECKLACE and a multi-year, multi-decade focus of the Finger Lakes Land Trust to protect that crescent of rural land, which mostly coincides with the route of the Finger Lakes/North Country Trail.

There are many public lands in that crescent, but the private properties between them are vulnerable to increasing realty pressures from Ithaca. So the Land Trust program has meshed perfectly with Trail advocates’ desire to protect its route. Donors to the Sidote Preservation Fund had increased that pot to hundreds of thousands of dollars, which the Trail was able to lend to the Land Trust to buy several key properties, and the staff expertise of the Land Trust at property purchases and dealing with N.Y. State’s Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) enabled the Trail’s money to be leveraged into protecting several miles of vulnerable land. Best of all, each of these parcels will probably be bought by the State to increase the acreage of adjacent state forests, returning money to the Finger Lakes Trail. It’s been a partnership made in heaven.

Outreach - EILEEN FAIRBROTHER

While Eileen is an FLT member, it is as a longtime Central New York Chapter member that Eileen has contributed on many fronts. Not only is she active leading hikes and work projects, but she also has adopted her own piece of trail. However, one of her most noteworthy contributions has been in the arena of outreach, first as the Chapter’s webmaster and also as the person who publicizes hikes and other activities locally. As a person who is dedicated to getting details right, her work is always thorough and competent! As her nominator said, Eileen enhances the NCTA image locally in a professional and creative way.



Mark Wadopian

Leadership - DAVE NEWMAN

While the “job” of Vice-President of Trail Preservation has been around for some years now along the Finger Lakes Trail, Dave has elevated it masterfully to a critical position, for he has been very creative with easements, land swaps, and other deals to make a positive trail easement out of previously vulnerable private lands. He has spent a lot of effort educating the Board and our trail main-

tainers to think of asking for easements, and to see some properties as critical to the trail route. Therefore, more effort is being expended on working with those vulnerable property landowners, and Dave has had an amazing amount of success in the last few years, especially solving longtime prickly situations.



Dave Newman

state, and even led the huge project to lend some of our preservation fund (grown tremendously by generous member donors) to the Land Trust to enable them to protect several properties which will be bought by the state to add to adjacent state forests in the near future. Thus our money will be returned AND the trail on these properties thus protected forever. He also led a nervous board into buying one property ourselves in order to protect the trail on part of the place, while selling the rest of the property with a house on it, thereby replacing our money again. Of course, our preservation fund has been amply grown by a bequest from Helen Brooks; see the Blue Blazes Benefactor Award! Dave's understanding of finances and his unending willingness to work long and hard with landowners have given the Trail many immeasurable boosts. 🍁

He has worked with the Finger Lakes Land Trust since we often share interest in the same neighborhoods in the middle of the



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Photo courtesy Fleet Feet Sports, Syracuse

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, July 28, 2018

2018 Ed Sidote Summer Hike

Jackson Pond Area, FLT Map M23 Rev. 9/17

Hike Leaders:

Peg Fuller: peg379@gmail.com 315-653-7345

Kristin Schafer: kristinhiker@yahoo.com 607-321-5754
(email is preferred)

Hike Description:

The longer hike, led by Peg, will be approximately 7 miles. The hike will include the FLT main trail, blue trail, and road walk. The hike will begin and end at Jackson Pond. At the completion of the hike we will enjoy a small campfire; please bring items you would like to cook out or other items you would like to enjoy at the gathering.

There will also be a shorter hike, led by Kristin, approximately 3-4 miles on the FLT, which will begin and end at Jackson Pond as well.

Meeting Time:

Start time 9 AM. Please be there and ready to hike at this time (dressed for the weather, hiking footwear on, bug spray and sunscreen applied, pack at the ready).

Location:

We will be starting off on John Smith Road parking area by Jackson Pond.

Directions to Meeting Place:

John Smith Road in Pharsalia is off of Rt. 23 a half of a mile east of Rt. 42. Travel north on John Smith Rd approximately .8 mile to the Jackson Pond parking area. This is in Chenango County.

From Cortland area (Rt. 11 and Rt. 41). Head east on NY-41 S/US-11 S. Continue to follow NY-41 S (14.0 mi). Turn left onto NY-26 N (1.4 mi). Turn right onto NY-23 E (10.7 mi). Turn left onto John Smith Rd/Leslie Jackson Rd. Continue to follow John Smith Rd to Jackson Pond parking on the left (0.8 mi).

From Binghamton area. Take I-81 N and NY-26 N to Lower Cinn-Cinn Rd in Cincinnatus (28.6 mi). Take Lower Cinn-Cinn Rd to NY-23 E in Cincinnatus (4.6 mi). Turn right onto NY-23 E (10.4 mi). Turn left onto John Smith Rd/Leslie Jackson Rd. Continue to follow John Smith Rd to Jackson Pond parking on the left (0.8 mi). From Norwich (Howard Johnson Hotel – 75 N Broad St, Norwich, NY 13815) Head north on N Broad St toward Mitchell St (0.2 mi). Turn left onto Pleasant St (0.5 mi). Turn right onto NY-23 W/Plymouth St, continue to follow NY-23 W (13.2 mi). Turn right onto John Smith Rd/Leslie Jackson Rd. Continue to follow John Smith Rd to Jackson Pond parking on the left (0.8 mi).

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, September 29, 2018

2018 Erv Markert Fall Hike Hosted by TCHC

FLT Map - M27 Latest Version

Hike Leaders:

Longer hike (12 miles) - Tim Sweeney tswe510@earthlink.net 607-222-2572 (Email is preferred)

Shorter hike (4-6 miles) - Kristin Schafer kristinhiker@yahoo.com 607-321-5754 (Email is preferred)

Hike Descriptions:

The longer hike will start in Masonville at the DEC gate on Getter Hill Road and we'll hike on the Finger Lakes Trail to Route 8. Hiking distance is 12 miles with many ups and downs. Strenuous hike with an approximate 2 mph pace. This hike requires a shuttle. Please contact Tim beforehand for planning purposes. The shorter hike will start in the same place and will be an out and back, starting and ending in the same place (DEC Gate), to be led by Kristin, at a gentler pace to accommodate group needs, about 4-6 miles.

Meeting Time:

8:50am. Please be at the meeting spot and ready to hike (dressed for the weather, with hiking footwear on, pack ready to go) at this time. We'll need to run a shuttle for the longer hike.

Directions to Meeting Place:

Masonville is located at the junction of RT 8 and RT 206 in Delaware County. Getter Hill Road is located off of RT 206, about a mile west of the junction of Rts 8 and 206.

Approximate Driving time from other points, according to Google Maps:

Syracuse – 1 hour and 40 minutes

Binghamton – 40 minutes

Oneonta – 30 minutes

Roscoe – 1 hour

THANKS TO OUR TRAIL LANDOWNERS

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

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



Answers to the Spring 2018 “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 Location:



Larry Blumberg

Correctly identified by 16 people, a record!
Map M16 Entrance to Bock Harvey Preserve
“Kevin Riley’s handiwork on Hines road. He kindly created this gate just for the FLT.” David Priester

Teresa and Max Blenis	Mark Petrie
Bruce and Donna Coon	Warren Johnsen
Scott Geiger	John Andersson
Mark Bouton	Theresa and Jay Evans
Deb Nero	Larry Blumberg
Tom Reimers	Sarah Gravino

Photo by Larry Blumberg as the Wally Wood Hike passed through the gate.

New Picture:



Jacqui Wensich

New name that map by Jacqui Wensich (nice picnic area)

New Business Member

Morgan Outdoors	Lisa M. Lyons	Livingston Manor
www.morgan-outdoors.com	845/439 - 5507	

New FLT Members

Nicole Briggs
Stephen Brooks
John Cannon
Alex Casucci
Bryan Chambala
Rita Coon
Brian Foy
Connie Gildner
Elise Glassett
Peter Grunder
Kevin Housel
Heather & David Hunter
John Kastner
Filippo LaRosa
Patti Lavell
Ted Lindsey
Mary Lobb

Rochester
Canandaigua
Springwater
Derby
Tully
Mount Morris
New York
Youngstown
Bainbridge
Binghamton
Endwell
State College
Rochester
Chittinango
Cortland
Castile
Booklyn

Serge Lossa
Barbara Malecki
Mark Maxwell
Mary Meeker
Jean-Pierre Moreau
Karen Navagh
Tom Nielsen
Sean Patterson
Shawn & Colette Pound
Christine Reynolds
Jakob Sacket
Elisabeth Smith
Octavia Sola
Nancy Stein
Peter Stiles
Rachel Trier
Nancy Williams
Randy Williams
Regina Wotasek

Fairport
Bainbridge
Croton on Hudson
Groton
Rochester
Mount Morris
Hamburg
Liverpool
Little Valley
Newfield
Hastings on Hudson
Freeville
Trumansburg
Piffard
Owego
Ballston Lake
Towanda
Towanda
Earlville

Finger Lakes Trail 2018 Calendar of Events

June 8-10..... Spring Weekend, Camp Badger, Spencer, N.Y.
 June 10 Board of Managers Meeting at Camp Badger
 July 27..... Ed Sidote Hike, see page 29
 August 1 Deadline, *FLT News*
 September 29 Erv Markert Hike, see page 29
 October 6..... Board of Managers Meeting, Ithaca
 November 1..... Deadline, *FLT News*
 November 16-18 Annual Board Retreat, Letchworth
 June 7-9, 2019..... Spring Weekend, University of Pittsburgh, Bradford, PA Campus
 July 28, 2019..... Finger Lakes Trail Day weekend in Bath
 September 22, 2019.. Fall Weekend, hosted by Bullthistle Hiking Club, in conjunction with final
 Chenango County Hike

FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE

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

Art Sandberg went to the Sidote Bench on April 23rd, hoping to get a picture of it with less snow.
Ha! It was still this deep in Chenango County. Shared with us by Peg Fuller.

