

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Fall 2018



Inside...

- * *New Shelter in Darien Lakes State Park*
- * *Replacing the Kimmie Shelter*
- * *National Trails Day*



FINGER LAKES TRAIL NEWS

Volume 57 Number 3

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

Editor

Irene Szabo
7639 Swamp Rd.
Bergen N.Y. 14416
Phone (585) 494-0307
treeweenie@aol.com

Graphic Design
Jennifer Hopper

Proofreader
Jo Taylor

End-to-End Update
Jacqui Wensich

A Naturalist's View
Randy Weidner

FLT Archives
Georgeanne Vyverberg

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Send address changes to :
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Mission Statement

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

COLUMNS

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COVER: Church Hill Road on Map M23, Chenango County, near Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area. Photo taken by Warren Johnsen

THIS PAGE: Painting blazes on Map B3, nearing the south end of the Bristol Hills Branch, in Pigtail Hollow State Forest in the hills above Hammondsport. Photo taken by Lois Judd.

President's Message

Pat Monahan

I happened to join the FLT cross county hike series for their July trek across Delaware County. It was physically grueling to hike or some may say climb up and down the mountains in the Catskills. I am fortunate to be in good health and to have the opportunity to talk with some people I know, as well as meet some people with a common interest in hiking. Somewhere along the trek the trail followed a short road walk before heading back up the mountainside. There was someone sitting on his cabin front porch and I offered a good morning or good afternoon. I wasn't sure which it was. He replied back, "It really doesn't matter because it is a great day to be outdoors." His reply back to me was exactly how I felt. I was enjoying a great day to recharge my personal batteries so I could go back to daily life. It was a well-organized day from some expert volunteers who made the day very enjoyable. Thank you very much.

In the last issue, our Executive Director penned an article looking for someone to be our next Treasurer, and we are still looking. We are also still in need of a Vice President of Trail Maintenance. In the organization's middle years, one person did it all. That was Howard Beye working from his basement. It was a daunting job. After he died suddenly, his job was divided into five pieces with Steve Catherman taking on the new role as VP Trail Maintenance. It was still too much for one person to manage, so now even that one-fifth job has been split up among several volunteers. Today, this position oversees the trail system with many volunteers who have agreed to do many trail-related smaller tasks. Are you or someone you know a leader who enjoys the outdoors and overseeing the trail system with the help of many others? If so, please contact the office at 585/658-9320. Our Nominating Chair, Wendy Stevenson, or I will be glad to answer any of your questions.

The Board is continuing to position itself as a governing board with decisions made from a strategic plan. This is a key to moving the organization forward. Decisions must be made based on a clear plan with specific objectives to reach attainable goals. We are in transition. We will be working with an outside consultant to lead us through the planning process. In the meantime, the Board will provide direction using the last updated planning document. The Board has recommended our Executive Director, Quinn Wright, to work part time until a plan is in place. Thank you, Quinn, for your flexibility to do this.

If you haven't had a chance to do this yet, drop by our new version of the FLT website. It is incredible. We have invested hours and hours of sweat equity from some of our own members to launch this site. I can only tell you from an outsider's point of view and from one who sometimes didn't even know what they were talking about that this was carefully thought through to be user friendly and usable for 2018 and beyond. Many thanks to Roger Hopkins, Scott Geiger, Tim Sweeney, Quinn Wright and the countless other volunteers who made this happen.

The Board has approved a change in the eastern terminus of our trail. For those of you who have not been there, it was a tiny sign at the end of a road walk followed by a forest road walk into the woods in the Catskills. Read Rick Roberts' article in this issue!

Finally, I want to recognize our public and private landowners. They have given us permission to walk on their land and, on behalf of all trail users, I want to thank each one of them. In the public sector, we have been acknowledged in their strategic planning documents. For example, we work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to provide input for their unit management plans in support of the FLT once every 10 years. In the private sector, we have agreements with landowners ranging from trail easements (permanent trail protection) to handshake agreements (permission can be withdrawn at any time for any reason). If you are a trail user, please stay on the trail and follow the rules and regulations of the landowner or land manager. Thank that person every time you see them.

(Note to private landowners: If you would like to find out more about a trail easement or how to donate your property to the FLT, please contact our office at 585/658-9320.)

Enjoy the rest of the magazine. As a matter of fact, save some of it for later. Get out to enjoy the fall colors and

"Go take a hike!!" 🍁



Thank You

Landmax Data Systems, Inc.
5919 E. Henrietta Rd. Rush, NY 14543
585/533-9210
www.landmaxdata.com

LANDMAX

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

New Shelter in Darien Lakes State Park

Photos by Lori Chiarilli

Along the Conservation Trail, within Erie County's Darien Lakes State Park, a new shelter was built by an Alley-Cat crew to replace an old existing one that is poorly sited in a wet area. Steve Marshall of Naples and Don Sutherland of Endicott were co-construction managers, while Dave Potzler was the project manager. Most helpers commuted from nearby homes, while those who stayed overnight on site tented in the woods. Donna Flood fed the group, and as Dave said, "Thank God!"

The cost of materials will be covered by a donation from the Bell family in memory of Donald Gorczynski. It went up quickly, in our recent simpler design. Fortunately, Lori Chiarilli visited on the final day and took these pictures of the nearly completed lean-to. 🍁



Left to right, Steve Marshall, Dave Potzler, Kevin Fridman, Don Bergman, Frank Occuito. Others worked on prior days, including Quinn Wright and Dave Newman, Joe Bell, and David Gorczynski.



▲ A modest tent city for those who stayed on site.



▼ The finished lean-to.

▲ Framing is underway.



Gifts In Memory of
Robert Illi
from
Virginia Illi
Donna Noteware

Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright

Thank you to our members, past and present. Without your enormous investment of time and money the Finger Lakes Trail would not have been built and continue to provide one of the best kept outdoor recreation secrets in the country that is free of charge to anyone around the clock year round . In the 56 years of the existence of the FLTC there has been a steady influx of very competent and effective leadership teams. From a dream to a reality the FLT now encompasses just over 1000 miles of main and branch trails. How did it happen and how is it sustained?

There are two donations that eliminate the major cost of creating and maintaining the Finger Lakes Trail. The first is landowner generosity which cannot be quantified. The value of landowners' generosity over whose property our trail traverses has an inestimable worth that far exceeds any guess one might make because without that donation there would be no Finger Lakes Trail. However, just a slight guess at the value would range between \$1200/ mile of 5' wide trail to \$6000/mile of 25' wide trail (these assume 500 miles of trail and a land value of \$2000/ acre). Regardless of the actual valuation, it is obvious that the value of the landowners' contribution to the FLT is huge. If the FLTC had to pay for tread the Finger Lakes Trail would cease to exist because the FLTC does not possess the financial resources to pay for what the landowners generously provide free of charge.

Second, 25,000 man hours of volunteer time are donated to build, maintain and manage the FLT every year. Over the fifteen year period of 2003-2017 and at the current minimum wage value of \$9.75/hour the volunteer time contribution is \$3,656,250! Howard Beye was apparently a SUPERMAN based upon his hours of volunteer service every year. Since his death the FLTC has been blessed with quite a few people who volunteer more than 500 hours per year. As an example I mention only a few who asked for nothing in return for their efforts and gave so graciously during 2016: Roger Hopkins (1206 hours), Greg Farnham (652 hours), Dave Newman (614 hours) and Robin Carlisle-Peck (581 hours).

After these two huge non-cash contributions, the FLTC has the cost of supporting the trail building, trail enhancing, trail protecting, and trail promoting. This is primarily administrative costs such as materials, record keeping, sales, insurance, publication, office, and management. While the FLTC expenses have trended up over the last 15 years from \$39,000 to \$130,000, our income has also increased \$77,000 to \$187,000. So, a rough conclusion is that there is about \$57,000 to pay for staff to accomplish the tasks and responsibilities for which there is a lack of volunteer available time or expertise. That is enough to pay for about one-half of the cost of the office staff and the Executive Director. What is the solution to this problem of how to pay for the administrative staff?

The FLTC cannot reasonably ask our membership to donate more. Annual contributions have increased over the last 15 years from \$21,000 to \$83,000. The number of members has grown, but for the most part has ranged between 1000 to 1500 people and annual dues income has grown from \$27,000 to \$47,000. The annual



Quinn, Jewell, and Blizzard Wright: Quinn's previous hiking dog Shoki died suddenly a short time ago, so now the Wrights have a new 9 week old baby boy.

sale of goods (primarily maps now) has been fairly consistent and varies from \$21,000 to \$32,000. Bequests, while very generous in recent years, are generally restricted in use, but as with our personal finances unrestricted bequests should not be used or planned in support of our annual operating budget. Therefore, it appears to me that the ONLY solution is to make a strong effort to increase our membership.

We are hopeful that our new website and greater social media will generate some new memberships or new donors. But we simply MUST increase our member and donor base and that requires significant promotion efforts. To that end the FLTC has two events in 2019 that require a significant volunteer time contribution. Please contact the office to offer your time for these events. The first will occur from April 28 through May 1 at the OnCenter in Syracuse. The second will occur from July 26 through July 28 at the Fair Grounds in Bath. Please see the brief articles on page 6. I sincerely wish and encourage you to seek new members through your friends and to contribute some of your time to help make these events a huge success. 🍁

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

Volunteers Needed

Quinn Wright

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference very much needs your help for two events next year.

You have been hearing for some time that the FLTC needs to promote itself more effectively for two reasons:

1. To make the general public aware of the Finger Lakes Trail system.
2. To close our operating budget deficits by generating new revenue sources.

The FLTC has committed to two very significant events next year that are new to us. We need the FLTC membership and its affiliate memberships to support both events as volunteers to help make the events a huge success. These are not intended to replace any of our traditional events, but rather to address the promotional needs of the FLTC. Your attendance as a paying participant is optional. What we really need is your commitment to help staffing these events.

The first event, the International Trails Symposium (ITS), is hosted by American Trails and held at the OnCenter in Syracuse from April 28 to May 1, 2019. There will be other organizations looking for volunteers for this event, so staffing does not depend upon just the FLTC.

The second event is Finger Lakes Trail Days, which will be at the Steuben County Fairgrounds in Bath from July 26 to July 28, 2019. The FLTC is running this event, which we hope will become an annual event and long-term major fund-raising event. Staffing is completely on our shoulders, so we need many of you to step up to help, even if it is only for a few hours. Details on these events follow.



The International Trails Symposium (ITS) is hosted by American Trails and held at the OnCenter in Syracuse from April 28 to May 1, 2019. The FLTC is part of the overall planning, the program committee, and is presenting at the Symposium. The benefit of this event for the FLTC is that the FLTC will have the opportunity to be very visible to a large cross-section of local, county, state and federal employees and organizations as well as industries associated with outdoor recreation. This biennial event's primary focus is to educate people about all kinds of recreational trails and the following areas of interest:

1. Tourism and trails
2. Design and interpretation
3. Building and maintenance
4. Advocacy and promotion
5. Research and data

The ITS is an expensive conference to attend, but event volunteers can attend presentations on the day of their volunteering for no charge. The FLTC is erecting two lean-tos which will be at the entry to the exhibit hall and serve as the booths for the FLTC and the NCTA. Matt Branneman and Rob Hughes will make presentations about how our post and beam and timber frame lean-tos are constructed.

The FLTC will need volunteers to build, erect and transport these two lean-tos (typical Alley Cat crews that Mike Schlicht will assemble) over the winter, before and after the event and then erect on the trail on National Trails Day (June 1, 2019).

The International Trails Symposium needs volunteers (usually 4 hours, but a few jobs are shorter) for the following functions:

1. Auction assistants 4/28 to 5/1
2. AV helpers 4/29 to 5/1
3. Bag Stuffer 4/28
4. Exhibit Hall Set up and Breakdown 4/27, 4/28, 5/1/2019
5. Floaters 4/27 to 5/1
6. Mobil App Connoisseur 4/29, 4/30
7. Registration Assistants 4/26 to 5/1
8. Room Host 4/29 to 5/1
9. Mobile Workshops 4/27 to 5/1
10. Symposium Breakdown 5/1 to 5/2
11. Ticket Takers 4/29 to 5/1
12. Transportation Assistant 4/29 to 5/1
13. Trails Rock Party 4/29

For information or to volunteer, please contact Quinn Wright qwright@fingerlakestrail.org or 716/826-1939



FINGER LAKES TRAIL DAYS

Save the Dates: Friday July 26 to Sunday July 28, 2019.

The FLTC is partnering with the Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau to promote the area and the trail to a new audience of users and tourists. While we will have a few longer hikes for our intense hikers, the weekend's purpose is to introduce the trail to new trail users. We are hoping to generate new memberships through myriad activities focused on families and trail use activities other than hiking. There will be camping, musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday, presentations, equipment and gear vendors, beer, wine, cheese and other tourist related activities. The benefits for this event are increased tourism for the County and new memberships and users of the Finger Lakes Trail. We are looking for many volunteers to make this event enormous!

1. Ticket takers
2. Parking attendants
3. Campground supervision
4. Entertainer Security
5. Event set up, clean up, and breakdown
6. Booth management
7. AV assistant
8. Master of Ceremonies
9. Transportation Assistants
10. Floaters

To volunteer, please contact Anna Keeton, annakeeton383@gmail.com, 607/351-3466 🍁

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

2019 Spring Weekend

Foothills Trails Club is hosting next year's spring weekend, on June 7,8,9, centered at the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, Pennsylvania. Those of us who have crossed the border into forested northern Penna. know that the woods are wonderful, and the rocks huge. We'll hike on the North Country Trail, the nearby Finger Lakes Trail, and other local trails. We'll sleep in dorm rooms in a quad style, with air conditioning, mini fridge and microwave. A lounge area and two bedrooms, two bathrooms round out each quad. Details later this winter, but save the weekend now.

The FLT No Longer Ends in the Middle of Nowhere

Rick Roberts

Three years ago I wrote an article advocating that the eastern terminus for the FLT be relocated. I started the article with the following: "I think you have to admit, that's if you are really thinking about it, that the eastern FLT ends or starts, as the case may be, in the middle of NOWHERE !"

I had a lot of positive comments and few negative on that proposal with the majority of FLT members agreeing that since many other long distance trails begin and or end, as in the case of the Appalachian Trail, on mountaintops, that ending the FLT on Slide Mountain made a lot of sense.

Finally this spring the FLTC Board of Managers approved changing the eastern end of the FLT to the summit of Slide Mountain. Because this new addition to the FLT uses existing DEC trails, it was merely a matter of informing DEC of our intent, making sure they had no objections. The DEC officials at Region 3 thought it was a good fit for the FLT and even wondered why, back in the '60s, when the FLT was first being built, did it not end on Slide instead in the "middle of NOWHERE."

Aside from the argument that some other trails end or begin on a mountain, the new terminus has several other positive things going for it. The first is that rather than hiking one mile in from the remote parking area at the end of Denning Road, and then one mile back out, there are four trailheads from which to access Slide Mt. The best for most FLT hikers is the trailhead at the Woodland Valley DEC Campground. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24501.html>. It offers both tent and trailer camping making it a great location to start or end your FLT experience. Since Slide Mt. itself offers no views of the surrounding mountains or countryside, this trail, taking in Wittenberg and Cornell Mountains, offers spectacular views of the 100 year old Ashokan Reservoir, the first NYC reservoir built in the Catskills.

There is also a trailhead with adequate parking on Ulster Co. Rte. 47. That trail comes at Slide from the west and for many hikers, offers the easiest ascent.

Then there is the new Romer trail, built by the NYNJ Trail Conference and opened only three years ago after nearly three years of work by their dedicated trail crews. This trail starts in the Village of Phoenicia, a quaint Catskill town right off NY Rte. 28, offering food, camping and lodging as well as whitewater rafting or kayaking on the Esopus Creek. <http://www.phoeniciany.com>. The Romer Mt. trail was built to exacting DEC standards with much side hilling and many stone steps constructed from local bluestone found right along the trail. Although longer than any of the other trails leading to Slide it is well worth experiencing. <https://www.nynjtc.org/hike/long-path-over-romer-mountain>

Then we have the old trailhead at Denning. But this time, instead of hiking one mile from the parking lot, you will have to hike the extra 4.5 miles that has now been added to the FLT.

Many thanks to the FLT members who lobbied for this new addition to the FLT as well as to the DEC and the NYNJTC who, by the way, did and will continue to maintain the new route from Denning.

The new FLT section to Slide is all on DEC trails and the FLTC or the NYNJTC are restricted from using our or their trail markers. We will use the trail as previously marked by DEC. Greg Farnham has already worked on a new Map M34, which should be in production soon. Provisions for end-to-end policies are being sorted out and will be published soon. 🍁



Jacqui Wensich

Doug Cunningham and David Marsh climbing up to Slide Mountain, over typical steep rocky Catskills terrain.

Gift In Memory of

Ed Wright

from

Teresa and Maxwell Blenis

Empty Boots

Story and Photos by Mary Zuk-Domanski

Those of you who are on the Foothills e-group already know of the passing of Peter M. Ruszczyk.

While not a founding member of the Foothills Trail Club he was a member since its infancy. The club did have an end-to-end hike series before the Conservation Trail was complete, but Pete and Fred Lang ran the first series on the entire 177 miles. He started in Niagara Falls in January. His theory was that everyone would have their legs ready for the hills in the south and the snow would be over.

The wind chill on that first hike was subzero. We almost ran through six inches of snow to complete that first ten miles. Very few stopped for lunch. It was just too cold. Of course for those of us on that hike it has become one of our "extreme" hiking stories. A few years later Pete ran another E2E series on the CT. He believed that there should be at least one ten mile hike on the schedule each month.

One of his hike inventions was walking along the waterfront in the winter. We started at the Zoo back when parking was free. We walked city streets to the waterfront. The Scajaquada Creek Bike path was not even a dream at that time, let alone being in existence. In those days our lunch treat was stopping at Ted's on Porter Ave. [no longer there] to have a taste of summer hot dog, then on to downtown for a ride back on the metro rail.

Pete also figured out a series of hikes on the Erie Canal starting in Buffalo. We walked all the way to Rochester. A few years later he started this series again. On the second hike we waited for Pete to show up for half an hour. It was not like him to be late. We decided to go on ahead. I thought for sure he

would show up along the way. He never showed. Unfortunately, that was the beginning of his slowing down.

Pete was a brilliant man and an avid hiker. When the Finger Lakes Trail was extending westward to meet the Conservation Trail he did much scouting and route finding including visiting the county tax offices on Maps M4 and 5. Pete also led several series of hikes on these maps. He would often point out particular places with a story to tell.

Pete was also a humanitarian. In his primary role as a lawyer he often took the cases of the poor or the indigent. He also invited many exchange students from UB, who had no place to go on holidays, to his house for dinner.

Pete had an easy going manner and was a great planner. He carried through on all his plans. Foothills has gained much from him. I still see some of his originally planned hikes on our schedule.

See you on the trail, dear friend. 🍁



▲ Pete is the one behind the center of the banner.

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

Branch Trails:

#109 Roger Ashworth (main trail #268), Bainbridge, May 31, 2018

#110 Henry Abbink (main #331), Canandaigua, May 31, 2018

#111 Mark Field (main #424), Fulton, July 4, 2018

Main Trail:

#445 Sean Moore (thru hike in only 42 days) July 2, 2018

#446 Lydia LePinnet (after 26 yrs!) July 8, 2018 (see article)

#447 Donna Dinse, July 14, 2018

#448 Lynn Andersen (see article), July 21, 2018

Updates:

Sheri Galutia and her sister Soni will begin their main trail hike this summer. Several hikers will receive their main trail or branch trail certifications at the County Hike Series picnic, September 15th. Oscar M. Pachasa of Freeville and hiking partner Silas Hoffstaetter of Ithaca started their thru hike the end of June.

Comments:

There will be an alternative eastern terminus on Map M33 and upcoming new M34 for the FLT which will be discussed elsewhere. No one will be required to use the new terminus currently unless they wish to do so, on top of Slide Mt. In the future, with plenty of warning, the new terminus will be required for those beginning the main trail after a yet to be determined date. Email me if you have concerns.

I want to thank Larry Telle for organizing monthly hikes through the years in all seasons. He has fostered many main trail end-to-enders, assisting with paperwork and photos as well as keeping me informed.

TIPS for aspiring end-to-enders: 1. Review the End-to-End Hiking section on the FLT website. 2. Join the FLT online Discussion 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.

Car Spotter News:

Jane Arnold of Hammondsport has joined our car spotter list. She is willing to cover M10-15 and the Bristol and Crystal Hills Branch Trails! Wow!

Donna Noteware, long time Bristol Hills Trail regional coordinator, previous Wally Wood winner (along with her husband), recently car spotted for main trail end to enders Bodhi Rogers and Anna Keeton on the Bristol Hills Branch Trail. (See photograph)

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 online Discussion Group to see if someone is willing, if you do not have a friend or family member available.

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!! 🍁



Anna Keeton

Carspotter Donna

By Anna Keeton

Trail angel extraordinaire Donna Noteware, with “Bodhi” Michael Rogers, taken by me on Saturday, July 21, 2018 at the small parking area just east of Access 16 of the Bristol Hills Trail. We were very appreciative of Donna car spotting us from BH Access 16 that morning to BH Access 10, for us to hike the 12.3 miles back to our car.

Access 16 is on map B3, Bean Station Rd between Prattsburg and Hammondsport.

Access 10 is Prattsburg Italy Hill Rd, north of P’burg, map B2

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

End-to-End Lynn Andersen #448

I started hiking on the FLT in 1998, blue maps and all, without any thought of actually going end to end. For 15 years I hiked the trails of Maps M13 through 19 over and over again with an occasional venture on the maps beyond to Maps M12 and 20. I managed to get out on the trails on weekends at least once and sometimes more during the week, so you can imagine how many times I hiked those parts of the trail. Over the years I covered every known loop trail as well as unmarked variations of those hikes. I loved those trails, especially getting to know them through all the seasons. Two of my favorites from those maps are the FLT/Abbott Loop and Babcock Hollow Road to Greek Peak including the Dabes Diversion and Virgil Mountain Loops.

When I retired in 2012 and had time on my hands I really started to hike farther. When the Triple Cities Hiking Club hosted the FLT Camp-out in 2013, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to up my game. After that, I was hooked. On the second day of that weekend, I happened to be on the hike that was the E2E finish for Scott Brooks. That and the sheer fun of hiking long distances with avid hikers inspired me to go for it.

The most daunting sections of the trail were in the western counties because of their distance from Ithaca where I live. I am so grateful to Marty Ruszaj for letting me tag along on the 2 weekend hikes of the 2016 Cattaraugus Cross-County Series. It gave me the big

start I needed towards the western end of my E2E. After that, I knew I could finish. Some special thanks go out to Marty, Joyce Ermer, Gary Brouse and Barbara Nussbaum who made it possible. I never could have finished without them. Also, thanks to Donna Coon and Larry Blumberg for organizing the Delaware Cross-County Series as well as the group led by Scott Brooks who hiked with me up to the Rock Rift Fire Tower and down to Faulkner Road where I finished. Then, I crossed the road and started my second E2E. 🍁



Janet Myer Bernecky

Lynn Andersen finishing



Colin Parrish

*Laurie with Addie, Kai and Lucille
They are setting out to complete hike #3 of
the county hike series, hiking very early to
avoid the intense heat. Laurie Ondrejka
and Deb Nero are three-time End-to-Enders
(along with Deb's dogs).*

Trail Topics: International Trail Symposium

Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews & Construction

International Trail Symposium, Syracuse April 2019

The FLTC contribution to the International Trail Symposium in Syracuse next year will be a display of two lean-tos, one of the Rob Hughes design that does not require any type of fasteners to construct, the other the traditional post and beam design that is becoming common along our trail. Both lean-tos will be constructed off-site, taken down, and reconstructed for the event. This poses a unique challenge for us, as the weather in March and April isn't always cooperative for outdoor construction. The tentative plan is to construct both of these shelters at a single site and use them as a teaching tool to recruit and train future project managers for lean-to assembly. While we continue to work on our wish list of constructing lean-tos along the entire system where we don't have one, some of the lean-tos in our inventory date back to the 1980s and are approaching forty years old! My hope is to be able to erect these structures indoors or if that is not possible in a relatively urbanized setting with easy access to power, equipment and resources.

Once constructed, the lean-tos will be disassembled and reassembled at the symposium. This is yet another opportunity for future construction managers to hone their skills in lean-to assembly as this process will have to be repeated once more when the lean-tos are put in place later in the year at their permanent destinations. The Hughes lean-to design is unique and one

that is sure to garner a lot of interest by those of us within the FLTC and attendees of the symposium. We are asking that interested parties, who aid in the construction of the shelters offsite and again at the symposium, volunteer for a four hour window to discuss the designs with attendees of the symposium and share their knowledge, skills and experience in lean-to construction. More information will follow on the dates and times of the volunteers' slots. While I will be reaching out to many folks who have participated in construction projects of years past, please feel free to contact me and volunteer for this unique opportunity. It is a rare opportunity to construct a lean-to in an urban setting and one where timelines are more flexible to build one than what is usually available during an Alley Cat.



Irene Szabo



Irene Szabo

This style is built with as few heavy framing members as possible, with just a few cuts to make sloped rafters fit. Each joint is accomplished with only one 8" power-driven screw, while cross-pieces keep the frame solid and reinforced. This is so much easier to erect than the old log style.

Town of Amherst Peanut Line Multi-use Trail Plan

...Schlicht Reports, Continued

On July 26th, the Town of Amherst had an information session on plans to make the Peanut Line, Maps CT 10 & 11, into a multi-use trail. Four plans were presented to use all or part of the Peanut Line from North Forest Avenue to Transit Road within the town. For anyone who has hiked this trail in the town of Amherst, it is a well drained, grassy area that travels an old railroad bed that was the route of the so-called Peanut Line, a New York Central low-volume alternative to the busy four-track main, among well kept backyards, but is an asphalt bike path as it traverses the towns of Clarence, Newstead and Akron. Presently there is a gap in the trail at E. Pinelake Road where a bridge used to exist, but for reasons unknown was removed long ago. This requires a road walk bypass as the creek is prone to flooding due to some crafty beavers who make their home here. When I spoke with town officials about the beavers, they stated the dam can be removed to prevent flooding but they cannot relocate the beavers due to state regulations.



Jacqui Wensich

Two of the plans presented will require the town to bridge the gap at E. Pinelake. The other two options divert the trail to Casey Drive at various points prior to E. Pinelake. Regardless of which plan is chosen, the good news is that the Conservation Trail will remain on the Peanut Line within the Town of Amherst as it is a right of way. This is the second time in less than a year that a community has undertaken a survey asking town residents about their position on creating multi-use trails and after reviewing the Amherst report, hiking, walking and biking trails were rated number one or two throughout the survey. Cattaraugus County in southwestern New York also surveyed their residents last year and learned that more hiking trails were welcome and that they would connect to our trail system. As I spoke with town officials, I asked if part of the grassy area could be preserved for a hiking trail to allow hikers a more pleasant experience rather than hiking on asphalt which was welcomed and suggested on the information sheet attendees were presented. Should the Town accept the pro-

A spot along the paved bike path, a welcome improvement over one of Jacqui's earlier pictures of a grassy, weedy path between close bushes. Clarence and Amherst offer miles of these rail trails; otherwise, it's doubtful the Conservation Trail could ever get through all this civilization.

posal, the trail would be asphalt only where it narrowed to provide access over existing bridges necessary for disability access. In my personal comments to the town I made this suggestion among others, such as possibly putting up signage for the grassy area to be dedicated to hiking. As this situation matures, more updates are sure to follow. 🍁

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

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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: Map Updates

Greg Farnham, Director of Mapping

Since the last issue, 16 map updates were published. All these updates were documented on the Trail Conditions internet page.

On April 16, M27 was updated to reflect sponsor changes on the back. M12 had a new hunting closure added. B2 had a parking place added near Access Point 12. B3 was updated to reflect this also. And M18 had a hunting closure removed (Yay!)

On July 18, M8 was updated to move a parking spot to a safer location. M25 added the Basswood Lean-to and a short reroute. M19 was updated to reflect moving a trail register. M13 had sponsor changes reflected on the back. And M18 had a 0.6 mile reroute near White Church Rd.

On July 27, CT8 was updated to reflect the addition of a new Lean-to at mile 6.9 and a reroute at mile 3.1. M21 was updated to reflect the addition of the Taylor Valley Lean-to at mile 5.8. Two additional registers were added to the map. And M22 was updated to reflect the addition of registers near the north (east) end of M21.

On August 1, M9 was updated to show a reroute taking the trail beneath I-86 near Kanakadea County Park and the Canacadea Creek, removal of 2 hunting closures (double yay!) and an updated sponsor list. M10 was also published to show the M9 changes that overlap onto M10. M29 was also published to reflect some cleanup of the GPS data. The track didn't change but our data and mileage calculations are now more accurate.

Segal's Law

Segal's law says "A man [sic] with a watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure."

Well, at least he thinks he knows what time it is. Actually, he doesn't know if the watch is correct or not, but not having a second watch, he has nothing to question the accuracy of his watch.

Applying Segal's law to location instead of time, FLT hikers with only one map always know where they are. Hikers with more than one map are never sure. The plethora of paper and digital resources available today has increased public uncertainty of all maps' fidelity. If you look at one of our FLT maps, you will see many roads named. If you look at the same location on Google Maps, or Mapquest, or pick a map product, you may see different names. So why should we think our FLT map is correct? Better yet, why should we think there is a "correct?"

Risking heresy, the FLTC map may NOT be correct. I hiked back and forth a highway several times one day years ago looking for my turn (road walks are not typically blazed), for the "dirt road" my map said to turn on. Until I realized the town had recently paved the road, I was bewildered (but not for 3 days.) I started questioning adding potentially temporal information to maps. Somehow we always think more information is better, but, if we have no systemic method to update all the details whenever any of them changes, then we have certainly incorrect maps.

Road names are changed from time to time. Depending on the age of the map being used, and the creator, there may be several different names for the same road. Same goes for hills, and probably other features. I grew up in Forestville, N.Y. The main road to the big city of Dunkirk started out of the village going up a steep hill, which all we Forestvillagers called Sheridan Hill because it led to the town of Sheridan before taking us to the big city. But everyone else in Chautauqua County called it Forestville Hill, because it led them down the hill into Forestville. That was 60-some years ago, but I'd wager that it is still the same today.

When the mapping team receives comments that our map is incorrect, or requests to change the road name, it isn't a simple matter. Usually our fine volunteer Regional Trail Coordinators prefer to go out and find out what the road signs (if any) say. Many towns and counties also have their own (usually paper) road maps, which may not be generally available. If the highway department places a sign, it probably reflects the town map name for the road, which may or may not be the same as what the many available, digital databases show. As our maps have evolved over the last 60 years, we do not get notified when the databases that our data came from change. So without the diligence of hikers reporting these phenomena, we don't know that there might be a reason to update a map.

Before the internet, I used to be fairly certain this was an "ancient Chinese proverb." Now that's there's a Wikipedia entry for it, I'm not sure. 🍁

Contact: Greg Farnham
FLTCmapping@outlook.com



Irene Szabo



Peg Fuller

Trail Topics: Trail Preservation Report

Dave Newman, Vice President of Trail Preservation

EXCELLENT NEWS!

You may recall an earlier report that the Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC) loaned the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) \$181,000 so that they could purchase property on the north side of the Heisey Road and Eastman Hill Road intersection, just east of Danby State Forest in Tompkins County, on Maps M17 and 18. The deal was that FLLT bought the parcel, using an interest free loan from FLTC, and was to hold it until New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) had the funds to purchase it for addition to Danby State Forest.

Well, DEC closed on the parcel in July and FLLT has paid back FLTC's \$181,000 loan. These transactions have permanently guaranteed our access to about a mile of wooded trail that might otherwise have gone to a private sale where the new owner might, or might not, have allowed the trail to remain. From the FLLT standpoint, the entire parcel has now been protected from future development pressure and becomes part of the Emerald Necklace of protected lands around the southern end of Cayuga Lake. It's the first time FLTC has had the funding available to do anything like this. We really appreciate the opportunity for collaboration with that land trust, and it is certainly sweet that DEC found the funds to purchase the parcel sooner than we expected. So now the money is back in our Sidote Fund, where we can re-use it for the next project.

Our main tool for permanently protecting the trail's location on private property is a trail access easement from the landowner. So far, about 100 landowners have generously donated easements. Any landowner so inclined can contact me or their Regional Trail Coordinator to get the process rolling. We try to make the process as easy as possible, and there is no cost to the landowner.

While we hope for donated easements, there will certainly be a few strategically important trail segments where the current owner is not in a position to give us one, and is going to sell the property. That means we may lose that strategic trail link. While we clearly aren't funded to simply "buy" the whole trail, thanks to our member's generous donations and bequests, we do now have an incredible \$900,000 in Sidote Trail Preservation Funds, with \$131,000 currently invested in two other projects and \$765,000 of it available for whenever the next opportunity shows up. I'm sure it is going to take a larger fund than this to accomplish our Mission of protecting the trail ... forever ... but \$900,000 is a great

start and I'm glad to be able to share that our first project has worked out successfully.

Please note: I'm reporting on our Sidote Trail Preservation Fund here, which is specifically set aside for Trail Preservation activities. Just so there is no confusion I want to be sure you understand that our regular operating budget, which pays for everything from nails and insurance for the construction projects to postage for the magazine, is NOT so plush and is counting on \$76,000 in donations, in addition to dues, so that we come out balanced at the end of the year. Somehow word is out that FLTC is "rich" so does not need donations. That is simply not the case. 🍁



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: Trail Management News

Author should be our VP for Trail Maintenance, But We're Still Waiting for that Volunteer

Bath Area

John, Debra, and Emily Jay, of Elmira, have adopted the section of trail in the Birdseye Hollow area (map M13) that runs from Telegraph/Aulls Rds. (Access 3) to Moss Hill Rd. in the hamlet of South Bradford (Access 4). This section was maintained previously by Pete Nye, who retired after years of tending to it. Many thanks to Donna Noteware and Dave Drum, for cutting downed trees and mowing the stretch through the forest parallel to Aulls Rd. Evidence of their recent maintenance work proved others can and will help when needed, and this cinched the deal, as far as John was concerned. When John and Lynda Rummel walked the stretch between Bozak and Sutryk Rds. on June 14, they took the opportunity to chat with landowner Charlie VanBuskirk, a former circus performer, (still occasional) ringmaster, and local history sleuth, who, as usual, had entertaining stories to tell, proving how worthwhile it can be to check in with landowners living near the trail. *Lynda Rummel*, Regional Trail Coordinator, Bath-Watkins Glen (Watkins Glen-West)

The reroute proposed to “complete” rebuilding the trail in South Bradford State Forest east of Dennis Rd. (map M13, between the hamlet of South Bradford and Monterey/Sexton Hollow Rd.) was revised by DEC Region 8 Forester Gretchen Cicora and Forestry Technician Tad Norton to eliminate the use of two old skid roads for switchback legs in favor of extending the new route across the hillside while using the old skid roads for fresh logging that is now likely to occur in that same area of forest. While building the single leg will mean more benching across the very rocky hillside, damage to the trail by the logging planned for the near future will be minimized. The trail extension across the hillside will likely be done in 2019. In the meantime, the trail remains as is. Thanks to those who signed up for this Alley Cat project; please consider helping with other projects in the area this season and sign up again next year. *Bill Meehan* (Project Manager) and *Lynda Rummel* (Construction Manager).

Chenango County

New Trail Steward for Bullthistle Club is Roger Barkman, taking over on Map M23 the section from Stage Rd. to Church Hill Rd. It was part of Mike and Peg Fuller's maintenance area, who still retain Stage Rd. to the first Partridge Hill Rd. crossing. *Tom Bryden*, Trail Chair for Bullthistles

Catskills

Three sections of existing trail need sponsors to take care of them. There are two steep, rocky sections open on Map M28, of 2 and 3.5 miles respectively, plus a 3.9 mile piece in need of trail work on Map M30 east of route 206. Contact Rick at hikerrick2000@yahoo.com for info or to volunteer. PLEASE! *Rick Roberts*, Catskills Regional Coordinator

Genesee-East Region

On Maps M9 and M10, on either side of Hornell, several sponsors are needed. There are over 12 miles of main FLT/NCT consisting

of woods, fields and road walks that need to be adopted by several trail sponsors. This section runs from Hopkins Road on map M9 to Lower Glen Avenue on map M10. The trail section will be split up into manageable segments. Contact Regional Trail Coordinator *Peter Wybron* to volunteer or ask questions: (585)243-5351 or prwybron@rochester.rr.com

Route News: Map M9 has been updated to reflect the re-route that was started last year to reconnect the Kanakadea Lean-to to the main trail. This year's re-route connected the FLT to the Steuben County Kanakadea Park and Campgrounds on the south side of I-86. Heading east and after passing the Kanakadea Lean-to with outhouse on left, gradually descend through woods. Pass the blue spur trail on left (E) to Fitzgerald Rd. and continue descent on white FLT (and yellow park) blazes through woods to entrance of tunnel under Interstate 86 to parking lot and Webbs Crossing Rd. (CR66). Note: Warning! Use caution in winter and early spring. Floor of tunnel may be covered with ice. Crampons should be used to prevent falls. Also headlamps may be needed during low light conditions. Tunnel is dark even during the day. At Access Point 8 is a parking lot for multiple cars. Cross busy Webbs Crossing Rd. (CR66) then left (NE) onto flat mowed Park trail parallel to road to the County Park and Campgrounds. Follow Park Roads and Trails (blazed white) through the Park to the Nature Trail. Views of Almond Lake and Dam on your right. Note: Go to www.steubencony.org/kanakadeapark for information on Park Facilities. Campsites, cabins, flush toilets and hot showers are available. Fees may apply. Turn right onto Nature Trail through woods to field. Turn left (E) and follow right side of hedgerow to mowed access road. Turn left (N) and follow lane to Webbs Crossing Rd. (CR66). At Access Point 9 shoulder parking. Turn right (NE) on busy paved Webbs Crossing Rd past Doorley Rd. on left then church also on left. Turn right off road to lane and re-join the FLT. *Peter Wybron*

Chain Sawyer Training

We will be holding an extra chainsaw class on the weekend of September 29 & 30. I have a few roster spots available so please sign up if you would like to be able to operate a chainsaw on the trail. The class will be held at Birdseye Hollow State Forest near Bath. Please contact me for more information if you're interested. *Marty Howden* 585/567-8589 or howser51@yahoo.com

M6 Trail Reopens from Hancock Rd. to Higgins Creek Rd.

In June 2016 a microburst came through Swift Hill State Forest on Map M6 and did a large amount of damage to a section of the FLT from Hancock Rd. to Higgins Creek Rd. The trail was cleared shortly after by our certified sawyers and reopened, but with a lot of visible damage and “hangers” over the trail. The DEC contracted a logging company to have this section cleared of the damaged trees as well as some ash trees as part of a reforestation project. Chelsea Sheridan, DEC Research Technician 2, oversaw the work and kept me informed of the process the entire way. Chelsea made sure that the contractors did their best to restore and

maintain the integrity of the trail. She had them add water bars and a small parking area off Hancock Rd.. As an aside, Chelsea took part in our FLT Chainsaw Safety Training in 2016. This section of the trail is now open for hiking. Please note: the snowmobile bridge across Sixtown Creek is still out so please be aware that if there has been a lot of rain prior to hiking you may want to take the blue trail. *Marty Howden*, Regional Trail Coordinator, Genesee-West

Watkins-East Region

- 1) The new route through Robert Treman Park has been opened. The NYS Parks trail crew with some assistance from a Cayuga Trails Club work party completed a new bridge over Fishkill Creek replacing the road bridge that was damaged some years ago and removed. The FLT now crosses Fishkill Creek above the parking lot and old mill as it did years ago. Thank you to Jim Brophy, Treman Park manager, for leading the way forward on this project, and Zach Ballard, the regional trail crew supervisor, and his crew for a terrific construction project.
- 2) Changes in DEC Region 7. Dan Little, who has been the field forester for most of the Cayuga Trails Club area from Region 7, has been assigned a different territory within Region 7. Taking over the territory is a recent addition to the region, Timothy Day. We thank Dan for all his assistance and advice and we will continue to work with him in areas farther to the east on Maps M19 and 20, and we welcome Tim to the area and look forward to working with him on the various projects planned in the Watkins East FLT region.
- 3) There is a trail segment in need of a sponsor. The FLT route from the Harford-Slaterville Road east to Purvis Road is in need of someone to do the routine maintenance. This trail section has recently been cleared of impediments and is all ready for someone to take it over. Contact David Priester, Watkins-East RTC if you are interested in sponsoring this beautiful section of trail.
- 4) We have had a new adopter in the CTC area. Mark Humphrey will be taking on the maintenance of the FLT from South Hill Road to Texas Hollow. And also Madeleine Ulinski, who has previously been maintaining part of the FLT through Treman Park, has moved her responsibility over to the FLT route from Braley Hill Road to Shindagin Hollow. Thank you all for volunteering. *David Priester*

Bad News for Our Cobb Property

In our last issue, we reported that Susan Acker had just taken over sponsorship of the Cobb Loop, but just after that, she finally got a six-day per week job that requires a long commute, so she wisely withdrew from this commitment. So we are once again looking for somebody to love the nearly two miles of trail on our own property, a trail which by now will REALLY need care! To volunteer, contact Marty Howden, Genesee-West RTC at howser51@yahoo.com. The field trail from the highway to the railroad IS being faithfully mowed by Ken Shaw, we're relieved to report. *Irene Szabo*

Letchworth Trail

Sponsor news: Colleen Liggett has just agreed to adopt the southern half of Cate Concannon's long section; now Colleen will

tend Access Points D to E. Also, Bill Rogers has adopted the 1.4 miles we advertised in the last issue, from south of Whiskey Bridge (south end of Letchworth Trail, Maps L2 or M6, M7) on the shared Genesee Valley Greenway/ FLT Main Trail, until the Main turns west.

Letchworth State Park used to dictate that all trails would be blazed yellow, but now they are in the process of reblazing ALL of the park's own trails in different colors, as reflected in the new map handed out at entrance gates to the park. So don't be surprised should you cross a park trail while you're on our yellow-blazed Letchworth Trail that is a color you didn't expect. We'll change our Letchworth maps once this project is done. Our access trails to the yellow trail SHOULD remain blue. *Irene Szabo*, Letchworth RTC

Bristol Hills Trail

The southernmost 3 miles of the BHT have been tended for several years now by Kirk and Rose Mishrell, who did a good job on a challenging section, demanding mostly because it requires a lot of field mowing between the wooded sections. Kyle Palmer is now ready to replace the Mishrells, who asked to be relieved of their charge. *Donna Noteware*

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 Mt. Morris 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
FLT office 585/658-9320



Lincoln Epps

A peaceful inhabitant near the Catskills. Yes, that is a rattlesnake.

Trail Topics: Landowners, The Trail Location & Easements

David Newman

On the Bristol Hills Trail, Map B3, just southwest of the crossing of Mitchellsville Road (CR13 above Hammondsport), the trail climbs a hill. It's a pretty stiff hill and exceeds the desired gradient of 10%, but it is where the terrain and landowner permission allowed a trail to be built back in the 1960s when it was first laid out.

Fast forward over 50 years. The current longtime owners, Dennis O'Connor, Lee Westbrook and Bob Plaskov, have granted us a permanent easement to cross the property, which connects up to another easement on the next private property going southward, Jan Cranch's property, where Lake David is located.

With a twist... the easement provides the trail may cross their property forever, but in a different location from where it has been all these 50 years. It seems that the current trail location passes right through the middle of this property that they own for hunting, and past a really good bow hunting stand. While the trail doesn't get that much hiker use during hunting season, Dennis, Lee and Bob have basically worked around the trail location and the occasional hiker spooking the deer. They have never asked that the trail be closed to hikers during hunting seasons, even though that's why they own the property.

Here's the deal... we have moved the trail to follow a logging road along the periphery of the property so that it will no longer cut right through the middle. Some of you won't like it; it's still steep and instead of a single track woods path, it's a woods road. Plus there will be a 600 foot road walk along CR13. But, and this is a huge BUT, it has the wonderful attribute that we now have permanent legal protection that it may stay there, forever, long after Dennis, Lee and Bob have sold out to new owners who might, or might not have continued to allow a trail on their property.

I share the story as another example of landowners who have helped us permanently protect the trail. There are certainly other places on the more than 750 private properties that we cross where the landowners are currently allowing the trail, but are not in a position to give us an easement because the trail's location is where it may interfere with current or future landowner usage or possibly decrease the property value in a sale because it is, basically, in the way. Just like these guys politely tolerated hikers cutting across the middle of their private hunting club property for years and worked around us during hunting seasons, I'm sure other landowners are tolerating the trail but occasionally inconvenienced by it.

If you are one of those landowners, or one of our volunteers or members who has the opportunity to talk to one of them, please remember that the trail's location may be changed. We don't want to do it willy-nilly as it takes a considerable amount of volunteer manpower to move the trail and change the maps, but if the trail is where it is inconvenient for a landowner and they can offer us

a different route that would be better for them we certainly want to have that discussion.

While the short term goal is simply to have a trail, and we surely appreciate all our landowners who allow it, the longer term goal is to get more of the trail under easement protection so that it may remain a trail forever. That's going to happen only where there are supportive owners and where the trail's location isn't problematic for them. The trail, in a good location on the property, may actually increase the value to purchasers who have recreational interests to use the trail. I should note that we even have a few easements in force that have "options" clauses, basically stating that the trail may stay right where it is for now, until and unless at a future time the owner asks us to move it to a different location (already agreed to in the easement document), typically along a route where it will be further away from a prime cabin building location or hunting area. It lets the landowner support FLTC with an easement, while reducing the chance that the trail's location will have an impact on selling the property in the future. As always, we all need to give a big thank you to the approximately 750 landowners who allow the trail. If there are any opportunities to help us protect the trail or simply to lessen the trail's impact on their ownership we hope they won't wait another 50 years to discuss the options. 🍁

GOOGLE GROUPS

This summer saw the move of the FLT's e-mail listserv from its Yahooogroup host to its new Googlegroup host.

If you were an FLT Yahooogroup subscriber, you have been moved over to the new e-mail listserv. If not, and you would like to subscribe now to the FLT's e-mail listserv, please enter the following URL into a browser followed by your e-mail address when prompted:

<https://groups.google.com/a/fingerlakestrail.org/forum/#!forum/hiking/join>

Alternatively, just write to one of the FLT e-mail listserv moderators, Larry Blumberg (**LBlumberg@stny.rr.com**) or Scott Geiger (**Scott.Geiger@fingerlakestrail.org**), and ask to be added to the "FLT e-mail listserv" subscription list.

The purpose of the FLT's e-mail listserv is to facilitate communications about FLT events and activities, the FLT in general, and for that matter any and all hiking-related topics. Once you are subscribed to the e-mail listserv, you can post notes by simply addressing your note to **hiking@fingerlakestrail.org**

There are nearly 900 subscribers to the FLT's e-mail listserv. It is open to both FLT members and non-members alike, but of course we encourage all of our e-mail listserv subscribers to take out an FLT membership !

The FLT e-mail listserv has been in active use since 2002.



Reward

\$200 for the Largest American Chestnut Tree found in New York State

The largest healthy tree, measured by DBH, identity verified by The American Chestnut Foundation as pure American Chestnut will win.

HIKERS, look for open burs lying on the ground near the tree. Collect one bur & note the location as precisely as you can -- FLTC map no., miles in from trailhead, nearby features, & gps coordinates, if possible.



For further information or identification of a tree: contact President/District 4 Director, Allen Nichols, 607-263-5105 or by e-mail, fajknichols.75@gmail.com

Over the past few months, FLTC trail sponsors (maintainers) or Regional Trail Coordinators have been posting this flyer at trailheads across the state. We hope you've seen one and it has reminded you to "Look & Locate!" – that is, to watch for burs, collect one, and note the location so the tree can be examined and verified by an American Chestnut Society or some other qualified examiner.

The FLTC was asked to assist in this project, and we've agreed to do so, enthusiastically. The project combines two approaches to restoring the American Chestnut to our forests – (1) finding living Chestnut trees that show at least some resistance to the blight that has eliminated mature Chestnut trees from our forests by living long enough to produce nuts; and (2) creating a genetically modified (transgenic)

American Chestnut by inserting a gene from the Chinese Chestnut which is not affected by the blight. In partnership with the American Chestnut Society, the School of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York (ESF/SUNY) at Syracuse is spearheading the research behind creating the transgenic American Chestnut and, as its informational flyer proclaims (see below), has nuts and seedlings available, for free. You can plant these on land you own, of course, and encourage any other landowners you know to do the same. While it will take many, many years for seedlings planted now to reach a size where they could be harvested for lumber, in not too many years, they will be producing nuts that can be eaten by many forest animals, including us humans, who can also take them to market.

Please visit the website, www.esf.edu/chestnut/, to get the full story. Restoring this magnificent tree to our forests will enhance the hiking experience for your children's children and all who hike the trail many years from now. By restoring this tree to the lands over which it once towered, you will be helping to preserve the trail, too. Just imagine how it will feel to follow the trail through a corridor of tall Chestnuts once again. While I won't be around to see it, it's a gift we can give to the future. So, go "Look & Locate!" AND plant some chestnuts.

Once upon a time the great
AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE

		
WAS MAJESTIC	THEN CAME THE BLIGHT	FOLLOWED BY DOWNFALL APOCALYPSE
		
AND FINALLY A DECAYING GHOST	OxO TRANSGENIC AMERICAN CHESTNUT	NON TRANSGENIC AMERICAN CHESTNUT
		
		RESEARCH HAS BROUGHT IT BACK

**DO YOUR PART PLANT A TREE
 BETTER YET PLANT A SMALL ORCHARD
 FREE NUTS AND SEEDLINGS AVAILABLE**

For nuts or information contact
[SUNY/ESF American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project](http://www.esf.edu/chestnut/)
www.esf.edu/chestnut/ or fajknichols.75@gmail.com (607) 263-5105

Replacing the Kimmie Shelter * Our August Alley-Cat

Jacqui Wensich, with Roger Hopkins

Kimmie 1 ~ 1992

October 31, 1992 over 50 people attended the dedication for the first Kimmie shelter built in memory of Kimberly Nicole Vandam, daughter of Lucy Gagliardo and end-to-ender #74 Nick Vandam. The location is east of Ithaca, near Caroline, map M18.

Over thirty volunteers worked 425 hours to complete this project. This was technically an Adirondack Mountain Club project but many Cayuga Trail Club members contributed. The original shelter was replaced after only 26 years because the site was perennially wet.

Kimmie 2 ~ 2018

Because CTC workers demolished the old shelter the previous weekend and because Mike Ogden, our knowledgeable Construction Manager arranged to have all the materials delivered ahead of time, the new Kimmie Shelter took less than two days to finish, including assembling a picnic table kit, and installing a fire ring and privy. Roger Hopkins, Max Heitner and Lucy Gagliardo were co-project managers along with assistance from other CTC workers. Mike and Julie TenKate saved the day by arranging to haul in all of the construction lumber, tools, and heavy fire ring, and bring out equipment and waste material at the end of the project.

Of course that seemingly magic difference in overall time spent is explained by our new current shelter design, featuring simple construction with heavy boards, a few saw cuts, and generator-powered drivers for 8" screws. The first shelter was the old log style, involving much harder work.

Dismantling the old shelter was done by David Priester, Gary Mallow, Lucy, and Roger, assisted by Jack VanDerzee, Charlie "The Terminator" Strohman, and Bob Kremens. Lucy arranged for and funded the lodging through Airbnb. Yukon Lodge is a rustic



Jack Vanderzee



Roger Hopkins

▲ This simple frame goes up in less than one day, compared to many days building with logs. Of course, it depends upon the crew's ability to get a generator in to the work site.

◀ Demolition brought down the old 26-year-old log shelter. The site was so soggy that workers had to stand on plywood even in the middle of this dry summer.

two story rentable camp, nestled on top of a secluded sunny mountainside beside a pond. Hosts John and Carrie could not have been more accommodating or helpful, often joining in for after dinner talk. The FLTC funded the materials and miscellaneous expenses from the Crews and Construction budget.

A large experienced crew worked hard in the hot weather and enjoyed some good eats prepared by Tina Wilson (Jacqui's sister), Lucy Gagliardo and Jacqui Wensich who donated the food, (Cornell chicken on the flip pit, potato, onion, carrot packets, BBQ baby back ribs, fresh cole slaw, salt potatoes, ice cream cakes, apple crisp, blueberry buckwheat pancakes and sausage, omelets and hearty lunches with plenty of liquids to drink. They were able to swim in the fresh water pond by the Yukon Lodge where many of the out-of-town crew stayed.

Landowner Tom Bosley was very helpful in this project by allowing access on a road he cleared for us. I will send him an Alley Cat hat.

Two current crew members, #76, #216 Jack VanDerzee and Greg Wooster, were on the original Kimmie crew in 1992.

There may be a short trail re-route in the future to make the new shelter closer to the trail rather than on a blue side trail. Check out the new shelter. You will enjoy the cool, woodsy setting and appreciate all the hard work, planning and organization that it takes to complete an Alley Cat Project. 🍁



Jack Vanderzee

Board and batten boards are being fastened to the back wall, over the simple framing.



Jack Vanderzee

- ▲ Jacqui Wensich making so-called Cornell chickens on the outdoor grill.
- ◀ The commemorative plaque from the old shelter was reinstalled in this one. As you can see, Kimmie died very young, and her end-to-ender father Nick died way too young, too.

...continued on next page.



Jack Vanderzee

More Chapters in the Kimmie Shelter Story

Lurching into my first Alley Cat

I was in charge of finding housing. At this end of Tompkins County into Tioga County there are no nearby campgrounds so I decided to look for a house to rent through Airbnb, and came upon this treasure! The Yukon Lodge is a rustic camp (with lots of amenities!) on a hill up a long dirt driveway with some interesting dips.

Before committing, I e-mailed Jacqui about her needs and Mike O. about the crew needs for sleeping and then I checked with the hosts many times to be sure everything asked for was available. Yukon Lodge sort of fit the criteria. There was electricity with two refrigerator/ freezers and two kitchen stoves with ovens, a gas grill and a charcoal pit for grilling. The water to the lodge came from the pond so the hosts provide plenty of drinking water. The bath house was set away from the lodge and was a unique design, including a toilet, sink and shower, water provided from the pond. The downside was the water heater was in this little house, so it was toasty warm in there! We didn't find that out until later.

I thought I had found the perfect place!

We found out later as Jacqui was trying to run a griddle, coffee maker and toaster, that there was not much extra electricity to give!

Another downside was, not being an RV driver, and underestimating the size of Jacqui's camper, and making it up and down the driveway in my little Honda Fit, I didn't think twice about the RV or any other car getting up the driveway unscathed! Jacqui and her sister Tina white-knuckled it up the driveway through the dips, and then Jacqui's camper stayed on the hill above the lodge. Thankfully, the host was very accommodating, helping to unload the food and driving to the lodge door in his little truck. The two refrigerators and freezers were packed full of food! Jacqui is an amazing planner and chef, putting 100% of her heart and soul into cooking for the crew!

Lucy Gagliardo



Jack Vanderzee

Peter Shambo in front of the just-finished Kimmie Shelter #2, where he was the first backpacker to stay overnight.

Sometimes the trail provides, and in this case it was pure magic!! I wasn't sure if I was going to stay at the Kimmie Lean-to or continue walking. It was blazing hot and water was limited. As I was trying to decide, I heard power tools and people voices in the woods above the stream. Not knowing the trail very well, I assumed it was coming from the lean-to and that someone was working on it. As I came up the slope, lo and behold, there were about 20 people finishing up on a new lean-to. They were surprised to see me, as the new lean-to wasn't on the map yet. I made up my mind that very second, that I was home for the night.

The group was very nice and even gave me some much needed water they had left over. The new lean-to has a nice privy, picnic table and fire ring. The shelter had the fresh smell of hemlock and made for a restful night. I've had some special things happen to me on the FLT over the past three summers (I'm section hiking end to end) but this was probably one of the coolest!!

Peter Shambo

Help Wanted

FLTC members willing to become trained as a NYS Certified Trail Guide to lead Girl Scouts on a weekend backpacking trip to a lean-to. The FLTC will pay for the cost of the certification. The FLTC will pay a modest amount of money for your guide time. The girls will have two adult supervisors and their own gear. The girls are expected to learn about backpacking, fire making, food preparation, water purification, etc. Typically the girls would hike in on a Friday afternoon and hike out on Sunday.

Please contact Quinn Wright to discuss this further at qwright@fingerlakestrail.org or 716-826-1939.

The Register, a Window

Ann Bayley

Many of us who do maintenance on the trail wonder about who and how often folks use our section. On Sunday, Aug. 5, I was able to see a little bit into the use of our trail. We maintain a 3 mile section of the Bristol Hills Trail near access point #8 on Woodhill Rd. down to Italy Valley Rd on map B2. This is the next southern piece after High Tor out of Naples. There, I found a trail register that was really thick and almost used up. I replaced it with a new Rite in the Rain register, some pens, pencils and FLT literature. When I got it home, I opened it up and started to read. Fascinating!

The register began in 4/8/08 and was last used in 8/4/18 so a ten year period. There were comments about the new register box and the beautiful waterfalls along that trail. The waterfalls are no longer there, the victim of erosion and logging. Many of the users are hiking north toward Naples, many from Bath. There are many comments about the long and steep hill that is the trail. My favorite is a man who wrote: "I am sincerely regretting every cigarette I ever smoked. Wicked tough."

The most frequent visitor is David Gotham who lives "around the corner." He wrote in the register 100 times, many times 2 or 3 days apart. He often climbed with his dog and really loved this trail. A number of groups visited: Boy Scouts from all over the southern tier, and NEOH (North Eastern Ohio) backpacking club visited every July. Norwich Bullthistle Club, Foothills Trail Club, Cayuga Trails Club, Lakeland Rovers, Springwater Parks and Trail, RIT Backpacking club visited several times. Many ADK members use this trail in order to train for climbing in the Adirondacks. In 2010, the Howard Beye Hike in January came along this trail and on the 50th Anniversary Spring Conference in June, Larry Blumberg led hikers here. In 2010, Dave Drum was GPS'ing the trail for the FLTC.

There were many dog hikers and other animal sightings. A neighborhood dog went along with several groups. During the ten years of this register there were four Big Foot sightings.

The most interesting visitors deserve a paragraph of their own. The ecology class of the Marcus Whitman Middle School visited the trail in July every year for 21 years. Samantha Ebel was their teacher. As someone who has led field trips to civilized places with bunches of middle school students, I can tell you that to take a class to this hill is a very brave thing to do. It appears that she thought the trips would end with her retirement but they continued with another teacher.

A word about the maintainers: David Marsh from the Lakeland Rovers wrote in the register every spring for several years. He called it Spring Cleaning. A fellow named "Colorado Bob" wrote a couple of times. If you have never heard of it before there is an annual foot race (!) on the Bristol Trail sponsored by the Twisted Branch racing club. They have helped to maintain the trail. I learned that over 100 runners begin at 5:00 AM and run or stagger from Ontario County Park down to the intersection with the Main Trail, a distance of about 50 – 60 miles. They have all day to do it. The most amazing thing is that they survive it.

Our maintenance work this trip deserves some mention. There were five of us, Patti Mangierelli from Rochester, Genesee Valley Hiking Club, David Wright (who thinks he is Quinn's cousin 32X removed) from Victor Trails, M.E. , a recuperating army veteran who was wonderfully nice and willing from Canandaigua, Jim Moody and me from GVHC and FLTC. I am feeble compared to the other four and spent a lot of time with pruning shears clipping encroaching prickles, carrying tools and offering

Samples from ten years' worth of pages:

6/15/12 FLT Spring Conference at Keuka College. 26 hikers AP 7 to AP8, Steve C and Larry Blumberg. (50th Anniversary weekend)

6/18/14 Donna Flood, Clarence, and Lois Justice, Tonawanda. Foothills Trail Club and FLT. Trail is wet needs hardening in many places. Grass very high at Wolf's Run Rd. {*Donna, Wolf's Run Rd. is in Allegany State Park, while Woodhill Rd. is on Map B2. Look at your map. Editor*}

6/29/14 Scott Brooks, Rochester. Awesome beautiful trail. Sunny humid day upper 80s. Better hurry, I hear thunder. Hiking AP 7 (DeWolf Rd) to Outback shelter and back.

12/27 Quinn Wright and dog, Shoki. Also Dave Drum, Brenda, and Molly. A magnificent trail from Access 5 to here. You've done a wonderful trail maintenance job.

advice while the others lopped and sawed. The other four were terrific. They worked so hard for hours.

That day the temperature got up above 90 degrees. It was cooler in the shade but we were all dripping. We knew the racers were coming down that hill on the 18th so we were extra scrupulous. We actually worked almost 7 hours. There is a perpetually wet spot near the bottom of the hill. I had an idea to build a corduroy trail so I asked everybody to bring a saw and a back pack. My idea was to find some green wood that was straight and the right circumference, cut it up into 2 foot pieces and carry it down to the wet spot. Well, the four strong people decided to just carry the logs with them. So there we were, me with all the tools in the back and the others carting these logs down this terrific hill. We would find something that needed to be done, everybody would drop their logs, we would do what needed to be done, we would pick up our logs and off we went again. It got to be funny. We actually carried 6 six foot logs down to the wet spot. Sometimes the logs were used like walking sticks by their carriers. Hope the corduroy logs settle in and reduce the muck on this trail. There were many, many comments in the register about the mud.

Many of the comments in the register dealt with the weather. The comments about the weather ran the gamut from "glorious" to "crappy." Many folks quoted from the Bible to describe their experience. A few people quoted poetry. My favorite poem was written by a Scout. I conjured up an image of him in my mind. He is young, maybe 12-13. He is tall, skinny, with maybe unruly blonde hair. He is cocky but you like him because he is an original. He is smart and funny. He wrote that he was next to the register weeping when this poem came to him.

Roses are Red.
Violets are blue.
I think of you,
When I take a poo.

And with these remarks, I say
adieu. 🍁

*This is a register from map B2, but
NOT the one on Ann's trail section.*



Jacqui Wensich

A Naturalist's View

Story and Pictures by D. Randy Weidner

Come fall, relieved of the oppression of this past hot, humid summer, as you take to your favorite stretch of the Finger Lakes Trail, you might be inclined to move along a little more quickly and tackle some steeper stretches. During these more vigorous hikes, younger hikers and those walking for fitness often have little need for periodic stops and rests. But others, who by virtue of age, infirmity, or just being pleased to wander at a relaxed pace, may find it refreshing to pause and sit a while along the trail. If walking with others, some congenial conversation helps pass the time. But if traveling alone, or perhaps with one familiar companion, you might find yourself sitting quietly, taking in the natural sights and sounds.

In springtime there are birds singing and plants in flower for contemplation. In summer, different flowers and a multitude of insects demand your attention. But come fall, a wooded trail is very much quieter. Gone or nearly silent are most birds. Insects are scarcer as well. Often the noisiest things in the woods are chipmunks and squirrels. But one group of arthropods grows more and more abundant through the year, until hard frosts finish them too. This would be the arachnids, the eight legged tribe of spiders, mites, ticks, and harvestmen. If your hike starts early enough to notice morning dew, you no doubt have seen the multiple spider webs on the ground or on vegetation, sometimes annoyingly anchored by gossamer threads across the trail, that catch your face or arms as you pass. Unless you dig around the leaf litter with a hand lens, you will never be aware of the mites. We all should know about ticks and the potential health hazards they represent. But who has really taken some time to watch the omnipresent harvestmen?



Harvestmen are that group of arachnids also commonly called "Daddy Long Legs." Like other arachnids, their basic body plan consists of a cephalothorax (the fusion of what typically constitutes a head and the limb bearing section, the thorax), an abdomen, and



◀ See the longer second set of legs.

▼ A seven legged harvestman who still manages to get around after one amputation.



eight seriously long legs. Perhaps the most common one encountered in our part of New York is the Striped or Eastern Harvestman, *Leiobunum vittatum*. A close

examination of the dorsum of this creature reveals lighter colored flanks and a variable dark streak down the middle, hence the name, Striped Harvestman. There are actually over a hundred species of *Leiobunum* in the family *Sclerosomatidae* of the order *Opiliones*, which includes all the harvestmen. So harvestmen are not spiders, any more than dogs are cats. Unlike spiders, harvestmen lack fangs and venom, and their jaws are quite small. Like spiders, they have palps anteriorly, with males typically bearing larger palps (mouth parts) than females. The female Striped Harvestman (Harvestwoman ?) has a larger body than the male, and the male's abdomen is more pointed.

And then there are those legs! If a human had limbs as long as a harvestman, based on the proportional length of our respective torsos, our limbs would be 40-50 feet long. Four pairs of legs arise from the cephalothorax, all long, angled at the joints, and dark in color. Harvestmen breathe through their legs, air entering tiny spiracle openings on the fourth pair of legs. If you take the time to notice, it is easy to see the second pair of legs from the front are clearly longer than the others. Harvestmen lack any hearing organs and thus are deaf. Their eyes (oculi) have a rudimentary, single lens that at best senses only light and dark. This would seem to leave our poor harvestman in a sensory-impoverished state, not good for any animal. But watch him move over the ground. Like a blind person using a cane, he taps those long second legs repeatedly on the substrate as he moves. These are creatures that know their world pretty much by feel. If you pick one up and put him down in a different place, he usually pauses, tapping the area with his second legs, then proceeds. It is amazing how fast they sometimes travel using this method. We do not

suspect they memorize safe routes, because their world in the leaf litter is constantly modified by wind and other disturbances. Harvestmen do have some chemical receptors on their second pair of legs, but it is believed they function only to help locate other harvestmen for breeding. The harvestman's diet consists of a variety of organic debris, captured tiny arthropods, and they have been seen dining on other creatures that have died.

Autumn is a particularly good season to notice these *Opilione* arachnids. They have long been recognized to be much more numerous in late summer and fall, undoubtedly why they were called "harvestmen." At this time, harvestmen seem to congregate, and are commonly seen scurrying over the leaf litter, climbing on trees and vegetation, and unreservedly climbing over you too if you are still. As you rest on a log during your fall hike, it would not be uncommon to see several at a time moving over the forest floor. Watch the action and you might just notice a pair linked together by the legs. A male encountering a female will climb over his intended, and if she agrees, they mate. But these deaf, blind males are not satisfied that just having mated fulfills their biological imperative. That is why they stay linked with the female until they insure she has actually laid his fertilized eggs in moss, moist soil, or wood, where they overwinter to hatch next spring as the next population of harvestmen. Once so assured, the male releases the female and they go their harvestman and harvestwoman ways.

As you watch harvestmen, you often notice one with only 6 or 7 legs. I suspect that these fellows are on the menu for almost every other creature their size and larger, especially: birds, mammals, amphibians, centipedes, predatory beetles, and their cousins the true spiders. Lacking any other defensive capability, and being mostly legs, harvestmen can auto-amputate a leg or two to effect an escape. Amputated legs of harvestmen continue to twitch for several minutes, holding the interest



Typical harvestmen, or Daddy longlegs.

of the attacker. Studies have shown a 6 or 7 legged harvestman is almost as fast as an eight-legged one, but when down to just 5 legs, they are measurably slower. And while the second pair of legs sense the harvestman's world, losing one of the first pair renders them less efficient at catching prey.

So now I've given you something to do as you rest on one of your autumn hikes. Once refreshed, rise up on your own two legs and continue on down the trail, hopefully with a new appreciation of a common, and sometimes misunderstood, eight-legged fellow traveler on the Finger Lakes Trail. 🍁

Meet our loyal business members.

Gold Business

Yellow Jacket Racing
Ellen Brenner VP/CFO
155 Culver Rd, Ste 110
Rochester, NY 14620
585-732-1090
ellen@fleetfeetrochester.com

Bronze Business

Bath Veterinary Hospital
154 E. Morris St.
Bath, NY 14810
607-776-7685
bathvh@stny.rr.com

Bronze Business

Morgan Outdoors
Lisa M. Lyons
PO Box 792
Livingston Manor, NY 12758
845-395-5507
info@morgan-outdoors.com

Diamond Business

Twisted Branch
Scott Magee
806 Boughton Hill Rd
Victor, NY 14564
585-441-1965
scottamagee@gmail.com

Silver Business

Finger Lakes Runners Club
PO Box 4984
Ithaca, NY 14852
607-351-9527
sad82@cornell.edu

Bronze Business

Davidson Shoes, Inc.
Mark Hogan, President
153 S. Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424
585-394-5417
m.hogan@shoestoboot.com

Bronze Business

Taggart Electric
Patti Taggart
200 Merrickville Rd
Sidney Center, NY 13839
607-829-2823
patti@te-ny.com

Gold Business

Goose Adventure Racing
Rob Feissner
24 Grenell Dr
Rochester, NY 14624
goose@roadsarepoison.com

Silver Business

Pittsford Traffic and Radar LLC
David A Tuttle
46 Sturbridge Lane
Pittsford, NY 14534
585-267-7401
david_tuttle@pittsfordtrafficandradar.biz

Bronze Business

Holiday Valley Resort
Jane Eshbaugh, Mktg. Dir.
PO Box 370
Ellicottville, NY 14731
716-699-2345
info@holidayvalley.com

Bronze Business

Vinehurst Inn & Suites
K Baldwin & Carissa McNamara
7988 NY Rte. 54, PO Box 477
Hammondsport, NY 14840
607-569-2300
info@vinehurstinn.com

National Trails Day

Story by David Priester / Photos by Gary Mallow

On June 2, a day beginning with a foggy mist, the kind that you really don't want to go out in, fifteen undaunted folks arrived on White Church Road in Caroline to participate in the Cayuga Trails Club 6th annual National Trails Day Event. The project outline was to construct a new route for the Finger Lakes trail from the railroad grade west of White Church Road to the base of Braley Hill from where another project on another day will build a new route the rest of the way to the top of the hill.

This day's project is the culmination of nearly a year of events. The beginning of the sequence was last summer when the trails chair was approached by the former land owner of this property to let him know that they would be logging on the property straddling the FLT and there would need to be a trail closure. And as an aside he mentioned that after the harvest they would be selling the property. This could have resulted in a long permanent road walk if we lost access to this property. One thing led to another and in the fall the FLTC bought the property. A great many people with the CTC and the FLTC made this happen. So now that we own the property, we can improve and relocate the FLT route with the guidance of the DEC who will be the eventual owners of most of the property adding it to Shindagin Hollow State Forest. These actions protect a vital link in the FLT and bring Danby and Shindagin Hollow State Forests much closer to being contiguous.

There was a variety of tasks involved in creating this new path. There was the field path mowing for which an elderly DR field mower was resurrected. There was brush clearing through some woods and tree lines and a short distance up the hill. A bridge was built across a fast moving stream and an imaginative s-curve puncheon constructed over the muddy spot at the base of the hill. The engineers and carpenters among the group had a long but remarkably productive day. In the end the mowing was done, the brush was cut, the water was bridged and the new path was blazed and open for business just in time for the FLTC Spring Weekend hikes.

Everyone present worked hard and contributed their time and energy to a very significant project. The free lunch and t-shirt are hardly enough to compensate for the effort. Thank you for all your hard work. I particularly want to thank Polley McLure and Gary Mallow for supervising various aspects of the day's tasks. 🍁

► This volunteer didn't want to wait for the bridge to be built before he attacked the greenery with his power weed whacker. Nerves...

▼ Tremendous quantities of power weed-whacking was needed to create the trail, in places where the DR mower couldn't go.



▲ Myra Shulman, new trail maintainer, chiseling a "home" to receive this board, a structural member of the bridge a-building.

◀ The S-curved boardwalk takes shape through a wet spot.

Basswood Lean-to Dedication

Story and Photos by Larry Blumberg

Coming from far and near, approximately 25 hikers and guests from both the Triple Cities and the Bullthistle Hiking Clubs showed up for the 4th of July Basswood Lean-to dedication in eastern Chenango County.

Our collective thanks to all who enjoyed a typically warm and humid summer day to join in the dedication ceremony, which was also attended by Winnie Balz of Schenectady, who arranged for the funding of the lean-to using money donated from the estate of Myron Egtvedt.

During the dedication ceremony, we talked about the Finger Lakes Trail while Don Sutherland and Winnie relayed the story on how the funding of the lean-to had come about. It seems that Myron had left money for Winnie to donate to various outdoor-related causes, and she thought it would be a neat idea to have a lean-to built somewhere in his memory.

Don serves as one of the Regional Trail Coordinators for the FLT. He also is very active with the Alley-Cat crews who help build lean-tos all across the FLT, including taking a leading role with the Basswood Lean-to.

So Winnie contacted an old-time friend of Myron's and hers (and TCHC member) Fred Neebe for advice, and he was the one to suggest that a lean-to located on the FLT in Chenango County would be a perfectly acceptable idea. Fred then turned her over to Don who was the one to connect her with the FLT office, which contacted Rick Roberts, Roy Dando, and me to get the ball rolling with the DEC for approval of the actual site selection and construction plan, and the rest of the story proceeded from there. 🍁



Winnie Balz who shared Myron Egtvedt's donation with us.



Biennial Regional Trail Maintainer Meetings are scheduled for:

November 3rd Virgil Town Hall 10 AM Bring your lunch and intelligent questions.

November 10th Bainbridge Scout House 10 AM Same advice.

EVERYBODY who works on trail maintenance, whether as a trail sponsor or as a member of a club, is invited. The more well-informed trail workers we have out there along the trail, the better will be our relations with landowners and other users.

New North Country Trail in Hoffman Notch Wilderness

Story and Photos by Mary Coffin

Volunteers have been slowly working with DEC foresters in the Adirondack Park Forest Preserve to build new trails to connect existing trails with the goal of one continuous foot trail, the North Country National Scenic Trail across the Adirondacks.

During the Fall of 2017 and Spring of 2018 volunteers from the Schenectady ADK Chapter worked many hours to clear trail in preparation for the ADK Procrew to complete the technical trail tread, switchbacks, steps and water bars. The Schenectady volunteer crew cleared all blowdown and completed side cutting. In July a volunteer youth group, teenagers aged 14-17, continued the trail preparation. During 2017 DEC forester Rob Ripp flagged the route after Norm Kucher and Walt Hayes GPSed a potential route up a small mountain, Jones Hill. Jones Hill offers wonderful views of the High Peaks from its open 1888 ft. vantage point. The National Park Service provided \$15,000 funding to contract the ADK procrew for two weeks to construct 3 miles of professional trail to the summit.

We have applied for grants to complete trail eastward from Jones Hill to Route 9 near Schroon Lake. This route will utilize one of the huge culverts under the Northway, Interstate I-87. Once the trail has road access at both ends we can post NCT blue markers and apply for certification.

DEC has offered enthusiastic support for other sections of the NCNST route in the Adirondacks. During 2017 DEC forester Kirstin Saleen hired a Student Conservation Association(SCA) supervised youth crew to build a 1.2-mile connector in Siamese Ponds Wilderness. This connection avoids a dogleg and private land near Chimney Mountain.

Also during 2017 DEC forester, Jon DeSantis, hired an SCA crew to clear old grown over trails from Indian Lake Rd. in West Canada Wilderness toward Horn Lake.

At this point a thru hiker can hike from Inlet/Eagle Bay to the village North Creek, mostly on trail and some logging roads via Moose River Plains, West Canada Lakes Wilderness and Siamese Ponds Wilderness. There is a short paved road walk to Speculator but the connecting logging roads are dirt.

So finally, after tinkering with various routes since 1982, things are happening in the Adirondacks to connect existing trails and closing the gaps, by constructing new trails to cross the Adirondacks from Forestport to Crown Point State Historic Site and to Vermont. We are getting good support from nearby towns and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

To adopt trail section as steward/maintainer contact maryccoffin@gmail.com. 🍁



▲ Student group coming out after a week clearing trail



▲ The ADK Conservation Committee took a hike on the new NCT. Norm Kuchar, turquoise shirt, and Walt Hayes, lower right in blue, have spearheaded the work in this area and GPSed potential routes here for ten years.

◀ Summit view Hoffman Mt. Ridge



#446 Lydia LePinnet

Amazing Task – 84 years old and 580 miles of Trails completed.

By daughters Nancy DiJulio and Patti Taggart, with closing information contributed by Jacqui Wensich

Lydia LePinnet at 84 years of age has finished her quest to complete the 580 miles of the main Finger Lakes Trail. It took only 26 years, 4 daughters and lots of determination on her part but now she has earned her end to end badge. Mark this feat off her bucket list. While her family gathered and encouraged her each year to complete another map, she hiked gorges, forests and many trails and in doing so inspired her daughters and granddaughters to love the trails and enjoy walking each mile and exploring the outdoors.

Lydia started hiking with the Tri-town Hikers based in the Sidney, Bainbridge, Norwich area in the early 90s. They also hiked in the Binghamton area “doing” mushrooms. She earned all the county hike patches for M16-33 with the Tri-town group. She hiked M1-15 with her daughters and granddaughters while visiting from her current home in Florida. 🍁



Daughter Patti left, friend Debbie right, and mother Lydia seated. Taken by daughter Nancy.



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

Upcoming hunting seasons:



In areas where the FLT travels, there is an archery season for both bear and deer from October 1 to 16 November. After that, Nov. 17 to December 9th, guns are permitted. As always, hikers should wear major amounts of blaze orange, NOT red, if they are out in fields or woods during these times. There is also a fall turkey season October 20th to November 2nd.



Do Bumble Bees Sleep??

Rick Roberts

Previously published in the newsletter of the Catskill Mountain Club

If you Google that question you will find that in fact bumble bees do sleep and I have a story to go with that. But first a little bumble bee primer.

I noticed that with the decline in wild as well as domestic honey bee numbers that the humble bumble bee has, at least in my area of the Catskills, taken over as the prime pollinator. Every day I see them in my gardens where their appetite for nectar seems insatiable. Unlike the honey bees, who tend to be selective in what they eat, the bumble seems to go after anything. I have a hive of wild honey bees not far from my house. Yet when the locust trees on my property were in bloom last week, hundreds of bumbles were collecting the nectar, but not one honey bee. The sound of the bumble's droning could be heard from 200 yards away. I thought then that perhaps the honey bee hive had not survived the winter but when I went and checked on it they were coming and going as usual. What they were eating I don't know, but not locust.

Bumbles are found all over the world and there are 46 different species just in North America. They live in the ground, excavating a small cavity just below the surface where they store their small amount of honey which, unlike the honey bee, is in small balls, sort of like the pearls of tapioca that you may be familiar with. The nest is small with only a dozen or more bees. Unlike yellow jackets or other ground bees, bumbles are very docile and if their nest is stepped on or disturbed they are unlikely to retaliate. As I kid I remember catching bumbles in my cupped hand and then releasing them unharmed. In fact it is only the female bumble that has a stinger and that is rarely used.

Bumbles stay pretty close to home, unlike the honey bee. They also fly even when temps get as low as freezing. But once the cold starts in earnest, the adults die, leaving eggs to hatch and start their colony all over again in the spring. Since they can fly and work at lower temps than honey bees, this is where my story begins.

A month or so ago around the beginning of June, I was taking my lunch while overlooking the Cannonsville Reservoir in the western Catskills. I had been doing trail maintenance on the Finger Lakes Trail and I was bushed and hungry. It was about two in the afternoon and in front of me were some blackberry bushes

that were in bloom. Several bumbles were active, doing what they do best. The temp was just around 50. As I was observing their collection methods, one of the bees flew over near me and landed in the short grass. He or she then started doing a little dance, prancing around in a little circle similar to what a dog might do to make itself a softer place to lie down. Once it had finished its little dance, it started grooming itself, first its legs then its body and finally its tongue. Finished with the grooming, it folded its wings over its back and became very still. I wondered what in the heck it was doing. Was it dying, just resting or taking a nap? I continued to eat my lunch and look out over the water, all the while glancing back at the resting bee. I said to myself that when I finished my lunch I would touch the bee and see what happened. After about 15 minutes I was done and reached over to give the bumble a gentle touch. To my surprise, it immediately took off for parts unknown. I then said to myself, "That little bugger was taking a nap, never seen that before."

When I got home I told my wife about the napping bee and have told many others since. When I Googled "do bumble bees sleep" I discovered that indeed they do. It was stated that when the temps get low or if the bee is exhausted, that they do sleep to conserve their energy. Usually you can find them sleeping in a flower blossom like a daffodil or foxglove or even under a leaf. In the case of my napping bee, I believe the sun, warming the ground on a southerly exposure made just the right place for the little fella to take a siesta. 🌻



Anne Keady

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.

Sidote Hike

Story and Photos by Peg Fuller, Bullthistle Hiking Club

But what a great day it became!

The Bullthistle hiking Club hosted the Ed Sidote "Mr. FLT" hike on July 28, 2018. It was a bit bumpy to start as we had some thunder and rain. Some said Ed would be laughing at us all huddled under the canopy getting ready to hike, everyone scrambling to get on raincoats and ponchos, only to discard them a few minutes into the hike.

But what a great day it became!

We met at Jackson Pond, FLT Map M 23, just off John Smith Rd. There were two hikes. Susan and Larry Blumberg led the short hike and Peg Fuller the long one. We started a few minutes late due to the quick downpour that came through at 9 AM. Prior to departing we took a few minutes to remember Ed Sidote and gave thanks to his hard work at helping to build the trail in Chenango County and the rest of N.Y.

The hikes both began by heading north on John Smith Rd., followed by a right turn on Johnson St. and a right onto Bear Wallow Rd. The groups then entered the blue trail heading south, then west. The recent rains made the creek and raging waters beautiful. A few of the small creek crossings were a little higher than normal. The blue trail led to Lower Pond, where the two hikes separated.

The long hike with seven hikers went south on Elmer Jackson Rd following the FLT. The group crossed the Bullthistle Bridge over Canasawacta Creek and were thankful for the bridge as the water rushed below. A short walk up Rt. 23 to Elmer Jackson Road and the group proceed north to the FLT section that led back to John Smith Rd and the cars. The long hike was 8.5 miles and lasted four hours.

The short hike had 10 hikers, left Lower Pond, and went north on Elmer Jackson to the FLT trail head and hiked back to John Smith Rd. This group also enjoyed exploring Newton Cemetery on John Smith Road. The short hike was approximately 4.5 miles and took about 3 hours.

Even with the rainy start we had sunshine and blue skies during the hike. The rain brought out many red efts along the trail as well as some toads and slugs. The birds were singing. Even a grasshopper was spotted along the way. The rain during the previous few days also brought out many new mushrooms and fungus.

Both hikes ended at Jackson Pond where a picnic waited for them thanks to Art & Sharron Sandberg. Hikers enjoyed a campfire and good company while savoring hot dogs, chips, drinks, and cookies.

www.FingerLakesTrail.org

Thanks to everyone who came out to remember Ed Sidote on this special hike. Extra thanks to Larry and Susan Blumberg who led the short hike and to Art & Sharron Sandberg who provided shelter in the rain and a delicious cookout. 🍁



◀ *S t r e a m s* running well after recent rainy days and this morning's downpour right before our hike. The section of the creek in this picture is between Lower Pond and Bear Wallow on the blue trail (M23).

▼ *The Bullthistle Bridge crosses Canasawacta Creek and was built in 2016.*



19 hikers assemble at Jackson Pond, ready to start hiking after a downpour.



ANOTHER BULLTHISTLE DOG HIKE

Peg Fuller

June 16, 2018, Saturday was a beautiful day for a hike.

The Bullthistle Hiking Club had 8 humans and 7 dogs (Maryann Weiss & Troy, Anne Altshuler, Abbie Tamber and Hoot and Stitch, Robin VanWagner and Rudy, Ted Robinson, Joanne & Dennis McCloskey and Cece and Friday, Peg Fuller and Tripp). We started at Hoag Childes and Fred Steward Rds. on Map M23 among the many state forests of Chenango County and immediately entered the FLT trail and hiked north. We looped around the blue trail to Coy St. and then went south on Coy back onto the blue trail to the main FLT trail and south to the cars. We hiked 5 miles. We took numerous breaks and the dogs had a lot of treats. Everyone had fun and the woods were much cooler than the road walk.



Peg Fuller



Peg Fuller

Here's hoping everybody remembered to bring something to hold the dogs' drinks. They simply cannot drink out of an upended baseball hat!

We look forward to our next dog hike.

STEBEN COUNTY HEALTH DONATES \$4000 TO THE TRAIL!

In our last issue, there was an announcement that the Public Health Department of Steuben County was going to celebrate its 100th anniversary by holding a public event at the Finger Lakes Boat Museum in Hammondsport, AND that the proceeds of the evening were to benefit the Finger Lakes Trail as a local health benefit.

On a Friday night in June, in a multi-storied old stone winery building, scattered among displays of old canoes and motorboats, there were food and beverage vendors and a display table for the FLT. Steve Catherman got us a large map of the county from the DPW with the trail shown on it, both Main Trail and the Bristol Hills Branch, and several volunteers staffed our table, where we handed out issues of the *FLT News*, Passport Hike booklets, and showed visitors what our maps look like. Many locals were quite familiar with the trail, happily, while a number learned more that evening. The well-attended event closed with an auction for highly varied treasures, which is where the Public Health staff raised \$4000, presented to us in July.

Thank you!



Irene Szabo

Laurie Ondrejka and Deb Nero were staffing the FLT table when these people stopped to see what was available. Donna Noteware, Lynda Rummel, and Quinn Wright also helped out.

Spring Awards Honor Deserving Members

At the June FLT weekend hosted by Cayuga Trails Club, one evening program featured several of our annual awards. Dave Newman was presented with the high honor of the Wally Wood Award, named for the trail's founder, because of his unstinting effort on behalf of preserving our trail route. We have read inspiring and cheering stories over the last few years on these very pages about projects that Dave has shepherded into reality, like buying our own property in Caroline, a property we are in the process of reselling in order to get our money back, but with the trail permanently protected there. His hours of work with landowners, the DEC, and the Finger Lakes Land Trust have been remarkably fruitful, resulting in the protection of several long stretches of trail, protection especially of vulnerable trail where a loss of permission could have resulted in miles of lost trail. Without Dave's dedication and willingness to devote a lot of time and detail work, our protected route would be several miles shorter. We all thank you, Dave!

Dave Newman has also been an active member of the FLT Finance Committee, where he is an especially wise and knowledgeable advocate for using donors' money well and making it stretch as far as possible.

In addition, the Clar-Willis Trail Care Award, named for the two guys who built and tended the whole Letchworth Trail until they were very, very old, was presented to Art and Sharron Sandberg of the Bullthistle Club in Norwich. The Pharsalia Woods Lean-to (map M-23), built by an Alley Cat Crew in 2013, is a source of pride for the Bullthistle Hiking Club. Credit for the conditions that hikers find when they visit Pharsalia Woods falls squarely on the shoulders of longtime BHC trail maintainers, Art and Sharron Sandberg. The Sandbergs go above and beyond expected trail care, as they almost daily visit "their trail," the lean-to, and check the near-by Sidote Bench.

To say that this section of FLT is pristine is truly an understatement. Art is fanatic about a clear trail and is always adding little things to make visits to the area easier and more memorable. Examples of improvements they have made include a nearby annex campsite for overnighers who find the lean-to occupied (it often is), stream crossings and other walkways, signage, and "hotel-like" accommodations at the lean-to. Firewood, a rocking chair, picnic tables, reading materials, maps, suggestions for lean-to usage, a well-maintained close-by privy ... the list goes on and on.

Lean-to visitors can expect an early morning "wake-up visit" from Art, as he firmly advocates that "dawn to 10:00 AM is the best time to be in the woods." To those hikers who plan on visiting Chenango County, (FLT County Hike series in 2019), you can expect "country inn" facilities at the Pharsalia Woods Lean-to. The BHC is proud of the work of Art and Sharron, exemplary "Keepers of the Lean-to." Excerpted from Sandberg nomination text by Tom Bryden.

While we were gathered together, Tom Reimers was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award presented to him in Ohio

at the North Country Trail Association awards session. His Cayuga Trails Club, hosts of the event, was understandably bursting with pride and happiness at his national recognition. 🍁



Peg Fuller



Michael "Bodhi" Rogers

▲ Art and Sharron Sandberg, winner of the FLT Clar-Willis Award for their exemplary trail and shelter care.

◀ Dave Newman, deserving recipient of our annual Wally Wood Award.



Michael "Bodhi" Rogers

Robin Carlisle Peck, who organized the spring weekend, and Tom Reimers, receiving his North Country Trail Lifetime Achievement Award which had been presented in April in Ohio.



Answers to the Summer 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:



Jacqui Wensich



J. Schmitt

On Map M10 east of Hornell, by J Wensich of Joyce Ermer, Laurie Ondrejka, Deb Nero and pups

Description by Scott Geiger April 2017 hike: Howard Wind Farm Pavilion and sign boards constructed by Energy company for Howard Wind Farm on top of Spencer Hill

New Picture:



Janet Myer Bernecky

Table behind a shelter

Correctly identified the spot:

John and Diane Schmitt hiked in Jan. 2017, when it looked quite different
GPS coordinates 42 18 48.23N, 77 33 4.85 W per Terry McConnell
Ralph and Joan Merzbach, Thane Bilodeau, Scott Geiger

CORRECTION: Name that Map in our last issue, Summer 2018, and another in the article about the Wally Wood Hike:

The photos were incorrectly captioned as the gateway to the Bock-Harvey Preserve. A reader pointed out the entrance to B-H is 1 ½ miles west of the stone gate. The FLT leaves Hines Road heading east and passes through private property and then into the “back country” part of Robert H. Treman State Park.

The gateway is on property owned by husband-and-wife team Kevin Reilly, stonemason, artist and builder, and Leslie Reilly Carrère, artist, designer, ecologist, and curator. The gate and stone wall was built by Kevin. The couple operates the Treman Center on the property, an amazing venue for weddings and events (www.tremancenter.com). We are fortunate to have such supportive landowners!

New FLT Members

Michael Ackroyd

Larry Allen

Emily Baker & Graham Savio

Kurt Behrenfeld

Caroline Boozer

James Brigden

David Burns

Richard Buttny

John Clancy

Chris Congdon

Margaret Davidon

Peter Diebold

Kathy Evans

Teresa Fallon

Wanda Fox

Michael Gilbert

Kyle Haley

Dale Hayes

Hornell

Baldwinsville

Cincinnatus

Cortland

Sleepy Hollow

Webster

Akron

Cortland

Syracuse

Hammondsport

Hancock

Ithaca

Akron, Ohio

Trumansburg

Branchport

Buffalo

Hornell

Cowlesville

Nicole Hogan

John Holloper

Lisle Kingery

Cindy Lewis

Chris Lundgren

Gary McCheyne

Kevin Morrow

Terry Moss

Dennis O'Connor

Cheryl Peluso

Krystal Potter

Stephen Rinaldo

William Rogers

Kenzie Rusak

Leslie Shaw

Darlene Smith

Robert Swapceinski

Jo-Anne Taylor

Lorelei Wagner

Gail Wechsler

Hornell

Clay

Geneva

Bath

Naples

Interlaken

Groton

Bath

Hamburg

Bath

Getzville

Alden

Bath

Ithaca

Campbell

Bergen

Canistota

Horseheads

Arkport

Finger Lakes Trail

2018 / 2019 Calendar of Events

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
 February 1, 2019 Deadline, *FLT News*
 June 7-9, 2019..... Spring Weekend, University of Pittsburgh, Bradford, Pa. Campus
 July 26-28, 2019..... Finger Lakes Trail Days weekend in Bath
 September 22, 2019.. Fall Weekend, hosted by Bullthistle Hiking Club, in conjunction with final
 Chenango County Hike

FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE

STAFF

Quinn Wright
Executive Director
 qwright@fingerlakestrail.org

Debbie Hunt
 585/658-9320
 debbieh@fingerlakestrail.org

Erica Cole
 585/658-9320
 ericac@fingerlakestrail.org

DIRECTORS

Mike Schlicht
Crews and Construction
 pageazi@yahoo.com

VACANT
Treasurer

Greg Farnham
Director of Mapping
 FLTCmapping@outlook.com

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Terms Expiring 2019
Roger Hopkins
 roger@naturalhighs.net

Tim Sweeney
 timsweeney@fingerlakestrail.org

David Tuttle
 david_tuttle@pittsfordtrafficandradar.biz

VACANT

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Terms Expiring 2020
Donna Flood
 dmflood@roadrunner.com

Michael Ogden
 mogden317@gmail.com

Dave Newlun
 dave.newlun@yahoo.com

Laurie Ondrejka
 laurieondrejka@gmail.com

Wendy Stevenson
 wsteven@frontiernet.net

Terms Expiring 2021
Ann Bayley
 annwbayley@aim.com

Rich Breslin
 wojech@frontiernet.net

Scott Brooks
 scottbrooks18@msn.com

Anna Keeton
 annakeeton383@gmail.com

Terry Meacham
 tjmeach150@yahoo.com

OFFICERS

Pat Monahan
President
 pmonahan@stny.rr.com

Debra Nero
Executive VP
 dn13@cornell.edu

Charles Schutt II
VP Finance
 cmschutt@buffalo.edu

Lori Chiarilli
Secretary
 lori.chiarilli@fingerlakestrail.org

VACANT
VP Trail Maintenance

Lynda Rummel
VP Trail Quality
 ljrassoc@roadrunner.com

David Newman
VP Trail Preservation
 danewman@rochester.rr.com

Steve Czajkowski
VP Membership and Marketing
 steve_czajkowski@hotmail.com

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

Alder Lake on our Map M31, deep in the Catskills by Warren Johnsen

