

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Spring 2019



Inside...

- * *Sign up inside for Chenango County Hike Series and Spring Weekend in Pennsylvania*
- * *A busy year for Alley Cat Projects*



FINGER LAKES TRAIL NEWS

Volume 58 Number 1

Finger Lakes Trail Service Center
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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: The waterfalls in Akron Park on the Conservation Trail,
Map CT9, by Mark Valites

THIS PAGE: Joan Young took this picture of a sandhill crane in Michigan, but it's a 4 ft. tall bird that we see more and more in New York, too. This one has rusty feathers, a function of its diet. There is a tick behind its eye, and you can see right through the breathing holes in its beak. That bird stood still!

President's Message

Pat Monahan

Time has a way of marching on regardless of what we think about it or how we use it. I am one of the few who enjoys the delights of the cold, but spring can never come too soon in my neck of the woods. It gives each of us a fresh start to focus on what's important on a personal and also a more global level. I'd like to update you on what has been going on at the Board level with the FLT.

We held our annual Board retreat at Letchworth State Park Conference Center on November 16-18. The retreat gives the Board an opportunity to study a variety of issues in depth, just not possible at the regular Board meetings. Some of the topics discussed at the retreat included trail easement strategies, Finger Lakes Trail Days in Steuben County, the American Trails Symposium in Syracuse and future fund development strategies. The most critical part of the weekend was the beginning of the Board's strategic planning process with Jennifer Patrick from Canisius College Professional Development Center. Jennifer gave a high level summary using data from the electronic surveys completed by FLT partners and Board members. The summary from these surveys set the stage for Board work groups that met during the winter months to study the following topics: trail maintenance, land ownership/trail easements, public relations/marketing/brand, membership, club relationships, fund raising and board operational model. The topics will be organized around these key areas by listing the challenges/issues, strategies, time line and person responsible for each topic. The first draft of the entire strategic plan will be presented at the March 9 Board meeting.



Vinnie Collins

Running ground pine on the Huckleberry Bog Loop, Map B3 above Hammondsport. Igniting spores from the yellow spore cones is how photographers used to create flash, long years ago.

Our annual membership drive occurs during the month of March. If you are currently a member, you will receive an envelope in the mail from me asking you to renew your membership. Our financial stability and capability to provide services and complete projects is dependent upon memberships and donations from people just like you. Please renew your membership online or in the mail so we can continue "to build, protect, enhance and promote a continuous footpath across New York State. Forever!" Finally, I want to thank all of the volunteers who have supported the FLT mission last year. Hundreds of you helped do something on behalf of the FLT for a few hours or few days. Maybe you offered professional advice about our investment portfolio or scouted a proposed trail route or offered to lead a group for the county hike series or stuffed envelopes for a mailing or attended a phone conference call meeting while on vacation or promoted the FLT at a wellness fair. The opportunities are endless. Thank you making the FLT part of your life.

After you have renewed your membership and completed your volunteer assignment, **"Go take a hike!!"** 🍁



Larry Blumberg

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: info@fingerlakestrail.org or 585/658-9320.

Also, the trail is CLOSED on private land on the first Monday in February, just to reassure you that we do not establish a permanent right-of-way on your land by walking there every single day of the year.

Birding Along the Conservation Trail / Niagara Greenway Trail

Donna Flood

Winter birding along the Niagara River is a challenge for the birder and their scopes and camera. The Audubon Society, Niagara Parks and the Niagara Greenway Trail staff participated in **Birds On The Niagara**, the first winter birding event for that group which happened over a two day period along the Conservation Trail (CT) which starts at the Rainbow Bridge and goes to the south. This combination of agencies provided a unique two day event discussing equipment, responsible birding and guided birding at observation points along the Niagara River and CT.

For those of us who recognize our back yard bird friends and know there are many other birds out there it was an education. For the experienced birder looking to expand their life lists to include migratory birds resting on the Niagara the workshop expanded their knowledge about identification, wildlife rehabilitation, how to set up your blind, and how to use eBird. The grand finale keynote speech was a presentation by Twan Leenders, president of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute

It was amazing to learn that a hummingbird is about 2-3" in length and weighs less than a penny, that it migrates to central American and back, and covers over 500 miles of open water without food or water, then comes back to the same bird feeder. These wonderful tiny birds of the northeast travel thousands of miles, eat constantly, yet go without during migration, have tiny wings that beat fifty-five times per second and defend their territory with great ferocity. The message of Twan Leenders focused on the fragility of nature. Bird habitat is disappearing, their food may be wiped out with city expansion and they face natural foes. Spider webs, leaping

frogs and bass are natural predators. Bird species are disappearing from the planet. Red insulators on electric fences are attractive to hummers and they get electrocuted.

When you've had enough of being inside during the winter, head to the Niagara River with your binoculars and spotting scope, record your observations on eBird, and note other sightings. Yes, you will see ducks, but there are so many more birds to view. There are eight varieties of gulls, tundra swans, Peregrine Falcons, bald eagles, and ducks galore. Enjoy your time hiking and birding on the Conservation Trail/Niagara Greenway Trail. 🍁



Supplied

Twan Leenders, award winning photographer and president of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute near Jamestown.

Taylor Valley Lean-to Honors Horst Schwinge

Sigi Schwinge

The ADK-Onondaga Wednesday hiking group made it up to the nearly new Taylor Valley lean-to (built by an Alley Cat crew over a year ago) and affixed the plaque honoring Horst Schwinge, who cannot join us on hikes anymore. Around 15 years ago he joined his first Alley Cat crew to help gouge switchbacks (about a half mile) out of the mountain. Tony Rodriguez was in charge of that Alley Cat and he also was on the hike last fall. Therefore he had the honor of putting the screws in (as I would have messed it up, ha). Our hike was quite easy because of all the hard work then and now.

Tony remembered that this Taylor Valley reroute was Howard Beye's project years ago, and that he and Horst worked the whole week benching the switchback trail to meet North Country Trail standards to avoid steep trail. He said, "It was my honor to assist in installing the plaque bearing Horst's name."

Sigi, his wife, and his sons, Eric & Claus, donated money to have this shelter built in 2017 since this trail was built by Horst, as an Alley Cat. 🍁



Tammy Hendrick

Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright

As has been stated many, many times over the years, the Finger Lakes Trail is mostly a secret gem about which few people know. The FLTC has embarked on a plan to increase its efforts to promote the FLT for two reasons. First, we are always in need of volunteers to help maintain the system whether on the trail or in its management. Second, more membership and more awareness increase the potential for generating the revenue that is necessary to maintain the Finger Lakes Trail system. To help achieve those purposes the FLTC has committed to helping American Trails host the 8th biennial International Trails Symposium at the OnCenter in Syracuse on April 28 - May 1 and helping the Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau host the First Annual Finger Lakes Trail Days in Bath on July 26 - 28.

One of the benefits of this effort is that the FLTC will be given an eight foot by fifty foot boardwalk with a value of \$5000. Because of the involvement of the FLTC in the planning stages of this Symposium, the American Trails organization now knows about the Finger Lakes Trail. Because the manufacturer chose to donate the boardwalk to American Trails and American Trails had no way of taking down the boardwalk or disposing of it, they decided to donate the boardwalk to a local New York Trail. The Finger Lakes Trail is the grateful recipient of the generosity of the manufacturer, Wickcraft Boardwalks, and the event sponsor, American Trails.

A second benefit of the FLTC's efforts is that Steuben County intends to make Trail Days an annual event. The County's stated intent is to promote tourism in the region and the beauty of the Finger Lakes Trail is seen by the County as a major draw for visitors that they can couple with winery and brewery tours. The outreach will be to attract young families with programs to introduce the joys of the outdoor experiences that can be had on the trail. The FLTC has been working hard to develop those introductory programs. The County's stated objective for each year is to generate sufficient revenues to fund the subsequent year's event. Any profits beyond that will be given to the FLTC to continue its work of maintaining and improving the trail system.

We really need volunteers for these two events. PLEASE volunteer to help make these events enormous successes. The Symposium is full of presentations that have to do with trail maintenance and if you have volunteered you do not have to pay the \$300 admission fee and can attend any presentation on the day or days that you have volunteered. Further, there is a goody bag and a volunteer tee that is given to any volunteer. Admission to Trail Days is much less costly, but as with the Symposium, volunteers may participate in anything at no charge. People who decide to volunteer for Trail Days should contact Anna Keeton at annakeeton383@gmail.com. People who decide to volunteer for the Symposium should contact Debbie Nero at dn13@cornell.edu.

If you are already a volunteer who looks after the trail or the management of the FLT thanks for everything that you do to make the FLT the wonderful trail system that it is. Without you the



Karen Wright

Quinn and Blizzard in early January. The puppy is growing up!

system would disappear. If you have yet to volunteer, these two events are a perfect way to say thank you to those who already volunteer. These are single day volunteer tasks and will not mean a steady commitment of your valuable time. 🍁

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Thank You

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

Trail Topics: Trail Management Notes

By your magazine editor, as stand-in for our new VP of Trail Management, who has not yet raised his/her hand

CRYSTAL HILLS TRAIL

Thanks go out to trail maintainer Jeff James who took care of the Crystal Hills Trail, map CH1 from Wixon Road through the Meads Creek State Forest. He has been the trail maintainer of this section for several years but recently gave it up. It has now been adopted by Dana Wood from Painted Post. Welcome to the crew!!

Pat Monahan, Regional Coordinator for the Crystal Hills Trail

MAP M4, THE COBB PROPERTY

Hurray! The Cobb property now has new adopters, Kristi Nomm and Pete Marcov. One short session working with them convinced me that they will be energetic and conscientious trail tenders!

Irene Szabo

BATH TO WATKIN GLEN ITEMS

Map M13, Aulls Rd. to South Bradford

Many thanks to new sponsors John Jay and his wife for cleaning up trash left near foundations along the trail in Birdseye Hollow State Forest, before the winter snows. They removed several bags of litter in addition to trimming back the trail.

Map M14, South Bradford to Dennis Rd.

Many thanks to sawyer Dave Drum and his swamper, Deb Nero, for clearing the downed tree off the puncheon on the trail section between the Moss Hill Lean-to and Dennis Rd.

Map M14, Watkins Glen State Park and Sugar Hill State Forest

Like sawyer Dave Drum and swamper Deb Nero, some folks are just generous and willing to help out when the trail section sponsor needs help. This is the case with Amanda and Tracy Guntow, who have agreed to assist with maintaining the trail through Watkins Glen State Park, and with Bill Meehan, who volunteered to lay out a relocation that is required by logging pending in Sugar Hill State Forest. Amanda, Tracy, and Bill not only relieve the section sponsor but also help the RTC, who at this time of year is AWOL in California.

Lynda Rummel, RTC for Bath-Watkins Glen

REMINDER!

Trail sponsors should have turned in their hours of volunteer work before January 31st. Scott Brooks, who gathers their information, is about to start nagging those who are still missing. Go to our website, find the Volunteers section under Members, where you will see a hot red link for 2018 Volunteer Hours Census. We need to know your hours and projects for a host of reasons!

DEPRESSING NEWS AT LETCHWORTH

After waiting over three years for construction of the railroad bridge to end the trail closure beneath the bridge, we are now officially and emphatically forbidden to walk the "slide area" between the Middle Falls overlook and the new railroad bridge,

nor may we access that section from the south, from NY 436 at the river bridge. There is a significant stripe of land between Middle Falls overlook and the railroad bridge that is damp gooey clay, so it slips and slides periodically. During the later years (1960's) when the Pennsylvania Railroad ran next to the river and beneath the high bridge above it, there was finally a crane stationed at what we now call the slide area, stationed there to re-rail rail cars that derailed frequently on the too-dynamic tracks.

Our trail fore and aft of the slide area has been nice firm railbed/towpath, but across the slide, it's an uneven slippery little footpath that clambers up and down. After all these years, now the Park has closed off this section, effectively severing both the Genesee Valley Greenway and our Letchworth Trail. Access K on Map L2 is at the road into the park to the Parade Grounds. We can still walk safely about a half-mile southward from K on firm railbed to the Middle Falls overlook, but no further, so it's an out and back. To continue beyond K on the trail, leave the Park via the Parade Grounds road, and turn right on NY 436, which descends to a bridge over the river, which has NO SHOULDER.

It's only a block further south, continuing straight from that bridge, to where the resuming Greenway bears left off the village street. We'll put a notice in Trail Conditions on our website, and sponsor Scott Brooks will try to revise our blazes, but be merciful: he can't paint effectively while it's still cold.

It should be mentioned that the Park's decision has been colored by some person's lawsuit against Parks, because she passed multiple "closed" signs illegally, was badly injured, and then felt justified in bringing a lawsuit against Parks anyway, which has consumed five years of Parks' time and money.

Irene Szabo, Letchworth Regional Coordinator 



Irene Szabo

Narrow bridge over Genesee River at Portageville, with NO shoulders. We have crossed this bridge on the Letchworth Trail for almost forty years now, without mishap miraculously.

Trail Topics: You Can Get Everywhere From Here!

Lynda Rummel, VP for Trail Quality

It's the destination that counts?

Did you know that the Finger Lakes Trail System is the very heart of a network of hiking trails that head off in all directions of the compass? Stop for a moment and think about this: from this one system of one primary trunk trail and six branch trails, you have 10,000 miles of interconnected hiking trail at your toe tips! Just imagine starting from the trailhead closest to you and hiking as far west as Lake Sacajawea in North Dakota or as far south as Flagg Mountain in central Alabama. Or southeasterly to Springer Mountain in Northern Georgia. Or northeasterly through the Adirondacks all the way to Mt. Katahdin in the north Maine woods. At the center of this is the Finger Lakes Trail System, which by the fortuitous confluence of luck and design, forms the hub in a network of hiking trails that covers the eastern and northern parts of the lower 48. And you can even hike into another country, northwesterly to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, Canada.

Dream big. See yourself taking a month off to backpack hundreds of miles. Or dream local. See yourself, your friends, and your family picking off one Passport Hike (day-trip) at a time, one Saturday every month, hiking to a lean-to, a vista, or a waterfall. Don't you get a little jolt of excitement when you think about this? Isn't it fun just to get out there and see the "backcountry," even if it's in your own ---or your neighbor's--- back forty?

It's pretty easy, and it's amazingly enjoyable, to see a little of the "back country" in this empire State, north of New York City. Add perspective: If you are one of our trail sponsors who tends to several miles, think of how your "small" section fits into this expansive trail system. Your section, however small or obscure, is a vital link. If you're a landowner who allows the FLT to cross your property, know that we greatly appreciate the importance of "your" trail section. The trail may cross only a few hundred feet of your land, but those feet are absolutely critical for the continuity of the FLT System, indeed, the whole interstate trail system. Doesn't it make you feel good just to know that your "small" contribution is making others happier and healthier?

It's the journey that counts.

Usually when I talk about trail quality, I talk about the condition of the tread or trail features: is it always wet, is the grade too steep, are the puncheons slippery, and so forth. But here I want to talk about the one adjective in our mission statement that relates to trail quality, "continuous." The quality of the FLT System varies with the continuity of the trail. We all want our hiking experiences to be fun, exciting, and deeply enjoyable. That means building and maintaining a trail system that takes you places and that takes you on an interesting journey while getting there. We want to be soothed and comforted by the out of doors, thrilled by seeing a big buck or tiny fawn, challenged or intrigued by a fork in the trail, quieted by the sweet song of the Baltimore Oriole or the hoo-hoo-ta-hoo'ting of a Barred Owl, and bathed by dappled sunlight at a waterfall. You *will* have these experiences as you hike along many miles of the FLT System...until you come to a road walk. Now sometimes you'll barely notice that it's a "road walk," because the trail utilizes a stretch of remote seasonal, "rustic" road surfaced in dirt, under a bower of trees. But other times, it's a road walk on a busy 2-lane road of hot asphalt and no shoulder. Clearly such a "discontinuity" in the trail negatively impacts the experience of hiking. The loss of even the smallest segment can mean a road walk of several miles, uncomfortable at best, dangerous at worst. So, we seek to secure the trail with trail easements, and we work diligently to get the trail off-road wherever possible. But we need your help to do this.

And continuity matters.

When you confront a road walk, know that we all hope it will be replaced soon with a new segment built along a fence line, across an old pasture, or through a wood. Please take note of your surroundings and think about how the trail might be relocated. Later, as you study a topographic or terrain map, imagine the route taking a slightly different turn and explore a new route with your fingers. Then let me know your ideas.

Did you know that on a clear day, if you look east from Ontario County Park (on FLT Map B1), you can see *three* of the Finger Lakes and hike to all three of them just by way of the Bristol Hills Branch and the Main FLT? At the right time of year, it's continuous trail, excepting road crossings, and one unfortunate 3-mile-long road walk. 🍁



Contact: Lynda Rummel
315/536-9484
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ljrassoc@roadrunner.com

Trail Topics: Alley Cat Proposals and a Volunteer Vacation

Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews & Construction

The Symposium schedule is becoming clearer even with a blizzard outside

As I put the finishing touches on this month's article, we are under a blizzard warning here in Buffalo. I'm glad to be inside writing this article and warming up from all the shoveling that I have had to do today. The timeline for the construction of the shelters and related tasks for the International Trails Symposium has come into focus over the past few weeks. Mike Tenkate has signed on as the project manager for the Bucks Brook lean-to build at his house and Matt Branneman will be constructing the Bucks Brook lean-to, the base for the Little Rock City lean-to, privy screens, and a scale model of the post and beam lean-to among other needs for the Symposium and the lean-to Alley Cats.

In addition, a 50 foot boardwalk has been donated to the FLTC that we will have to help set up and take down at the Symposium in Syracuse. A lot of volunteers will be needed to pull all this off so please look at the schedule below and let Mike Tenkate know if you want to volunteer for the activities at his house near Virgil (Mike.Tenkate@yahoo.com) and let me know if you can volunteer for the activities in Syracuse (pageazi@yahoo.com).

A timeline for construction/deconstruction is as follows:

April 6th & 7th, Virgil, N.Y. Construct Bucks Brook lean-to, base for Little Rock City (LRC), three privy screens, model of post and beam lean-to and there's the possibility of picnic tables and wood base for fire ring display.

April 13th & 14th – Virgil Rain date for construction

April 20th & 21st – Virgil Rain date for construction

April 25th – Syracuse, 8 AM Mike Tenkate will be dropping off the Bucks Brook lean-to, base for the Little Rock City lean-to and privy screens at the OnCenter. We have permission to drive right onto the floor of the OnCenter to the spot where our display will be; that will make our work easier.

We will also start reconstructing the Bucks Brook lean-to, base for the Little Rock City lean-to and privy screens at that time.

No outside food or drink are permitted within the OnCenter and permits may be necessary to be on premises so it is important to let me know if you will be volunteering for any of the setup and take down events at the OnCenter

April 26th – Syracuse Continue reconstruction of lean-tos if needed

April 27th – Syracuse Rob Hughes will be dropping off the Little Rock City lean-to on the 27th and will also need assistance with reconstruction. This will be a very unique experience as his lean-to incorporates a new framing design that you may want to take part in. I will also be assisting the folks from Wickcraft who are setting up the boardwalk being donated to the FLTC and could use a few hands here, too. The following photos show just some of the possibilities of how the boardwalk can be utilized in swampy and muddy situations. We are also being asked to deconstruct the boardwalk on May 1st which will provide another opportunity for volunteers to get involved in a unique experience.


May 1- Syracuse 11 AM SHARP Lean-To Deconstruction

- The symposium at the OnCenter concludes at 11 AM on May 1st and all vendors have until 7 pm to disassemble and load their displays. This will be a very busy and hectic time for us as we have to disassemble two lean-tos, privy screens and related items. We will need a number of volunteers to assist in carting these items to the loading dock as we are not likely to be able to drive our vehicles to our displays. The loading of the lean-tos is also going to be somewhat complex as project managers Dave Potzler and Tony Rodriguez will have to wait for us to complete deconstruction and obtain a window to bring their trailers in for loading.

May 1- Virgil Mike Tenkate will also be loading the other materials that were not needed for the OnCenter displays and bring them to a nearby parking lot to meet Dave and Tony with their trailers. These materials will be transferred to them before they load at the OnCenter.

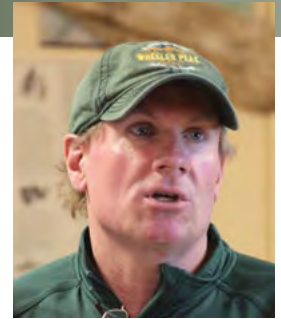
May 1- Syracuse 11 AM SHARP Boardwalk Deconstruction

- Mike Tenkate will also be taking the boardwalk back to his house in Virgil, to store it until the final destination has been determined. I have been told that the boardwalk weighs 4800 lbs and breaks down into multiple sections weighing 400lbs each! We will definitely need some volunteers to help us disassemble the structure and load onto Mike's trailer.

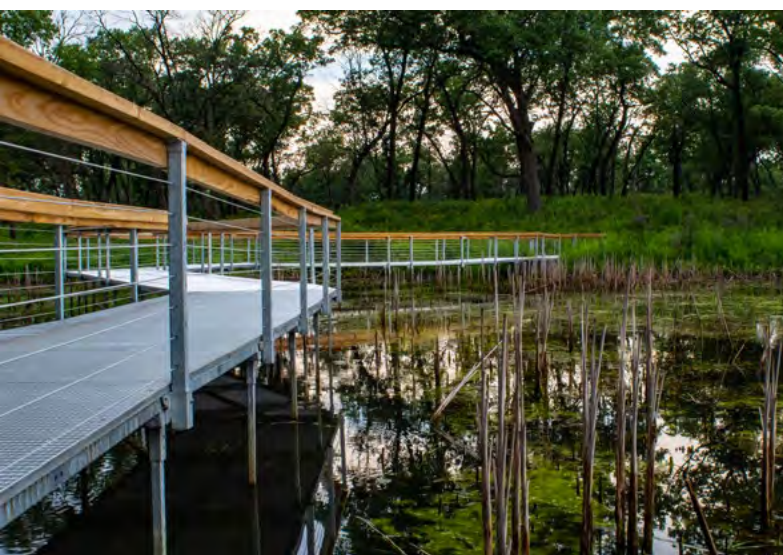
It will be a very busy month and lots of volunteers will be needed to make the Symposium at the OnCenter a success. If you can volunteer for any of the activities in this article, please do not hesitate to contact me at 716-316-4388 or pageazi@yahoo.com 

This picture shows a fairly complex boardwalk through wetland. Wickcraft, the manufacturer, is donating their display model from the Trail Symposium in Syracuse to us for use where we need it.

www.FingerLakesTrail.org



Irene Szabo



The Volunteer Vacation and 2019 Alley Cats

Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews and Construction

In December we were notified that the American Hiking Society (AHS) accepted our proposal for the volunteer vacation in the Catskills. This project will entail having certified sawyers clear the trail of debris, along with other volunteers to remove the cuttings and widening the trail by clearing vegetation alongside. Rick Roberts was able to secure the cabin at the Little Pond campground in Andes that has a kitchen and sleeping facilities, Willa Powell has volunteered to pick up and return volunteers to/from Binghamton who fly in to the airport and Anne Bayley has volunteered to be the cook for the trip.

While AHS volunteers have to sign up and donate the registration fee to participate, volunteers who are FLTC members will not have to pay. One of the crucial components to make this a success is to have certified sawyers so please let Rick Roberts know that you will be available to help on one of the days between May 20th and 24th. (hikerrick2000@yahoo.com) If we have enough sawyers volunteer for each day, our plan is to divide the volunteers into multiple teams to cover more ground.

There is always the concern that we may not have enough AHS volunteers sign up or possibly none at all. Should this happen, we will make this project an Alley Cat. All FLTC members are welcome to assist for the day if you would like to. I would just need to know what day(s) you will be assisting so we can plan the meals for the day and whether there will be lodging available at the cabin,. One other area we will need volunteers for is to shuttle our crew(s) to/from the trail heads. So if you are from the area and would like to help out in any of these areas, please let me know. (pageazi@yahoo.com)

The planning of the construction dates for this year's Alley Cats has had to take a back seat with the Symposium and Volunteer Vacation projects. Many of the folks who would take on the project and construction manager roles are heavily invested in the planning of the Symposium and Trails Days events already. What I can state with relative assurance is that the final construction of the Bucks Brook and Little Rock City lean-tos is scheduled to take place before National Trails Day which is on June 1st this year, weather permitting. If you would like to assist in these Alley Cats, please let Tony or Dave know. (Tony at boricua1037@verizon.net, Dave at dpotzler66@wildblue.net)

M1: Allegany State Park Lean-to Deconstruction and Roof Replacement

One of the two components of this project is to deconstruct two very old shelters and remove the shingles from the trail to a disposal site we have worked out with the Allegany State Park personnel. Allegany State Park applied for funding to have a crew perform this work and the result will not be known till summer. In the interim, we can replace the roof of the Stoney Brook lean-to once the materials have arrived from Mike Tenkate's house and the hand-off of materials to Dave Potzler in Syracuse on May 1st. We may salvage some of the old wood from the roof to

make puncheon on the trail using some of the shingles to provide traction control. The replacement of the roof will go very quickly as little cutting will be necessary. Once I know if we will need to deconstruct the old lean-tos, I'll send a special message out to identify volunteers to take part in this project.

M12: Bridge Reconstruction

The M12 Alley Cat has also not been scheduled at this time. The project was approved and the Project/Construction managers are Scott Kolo and Bob Plaskov. They will need some volunteers to help remove the planking and guard rails before the one telephone pole can be rotated to find a new level if at all possible. This will require some strong folks to rotate the pole and install the turnbuckles that will shore it up. Once I have confirmed a date, the FLTC Alley Cat page will reflect this information on our website.


M13: South Bradford State Forest Switchbacks

I spoke with Lynda Runmel who is the project manager and she said the Alley Cat will take place late summer or early fall. In part this lack of a schedule was due to the Symposium and Trail Days events she has been working on. The date for this project will be reflected on the FLTC Alley Cat page.

Map 18: Coddington Road Trail Reroutes

One of the pieces we were waiting for to make this project larger in scope was approved in December and the project will involve the creation of two sets of switchbacks. The upper switchbacks were laid out in September and the other wasn't possible due to debris left over from logging on the lower section of the hill near Coddington Road. The lower switchbacks will be the more challenging part of the project. In addition we have to create a staircase or possibly a ladder to allow hikers to get up a 15 foot rise from a logging road without blocking access to it. This will likely be a mid to late summer project and details will be updated on the FLTC Alley Cat web page.

O1: Trail Improvement Project and Hemlock Lean-to Repairs

The Onondaga Alley Cat is being headed by Mike Ogden. Right now the tentative plan is that the roof slats and metal roof will be coming from Mike Tenkate's house and will be delivered to Mike Ogden in or around the time of the Symposium for the Hemlock lean-to. The Alley Cat has not been scheduled yet so we ask interested parties to consult the FLTC Alley Cat page at: <https://fingerlakestrail.org/members/volunteer-trail-work/alley-cat-crew/> 

Contact: Mike Schlicht
716/ 316-4388
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Trail Topics: Trail Preservation Report

David Newman, VP of Trail Preservation

After hibernating for much of the winter, our trail maintaining volunteers will be out and about repairing any damages once the weather turns. If you are one of them, please remember to take the opportunity to check in with your section's private property landowners when you have a chance. We especially need you to find out if there are any issues that need attention. And if you are one of our landowners and having a problem, please feel free to call or email the office team and they'll get the right person to get back to you.

Speaking of hibernating, our progress on obtaining Trail Access Easements from willing landowners has also taken a nap. I think that there are landowners out there who are thinking "someday I'll get around to that." And someday becomes next month, next year... I understand. I just want to reiterate; it really isn't much of a hassle and there is no cost. I've had more than one really solid trail supporter tell me they don't want to deal with the paperwork and they'll leave it to their kids once they inherit the property. When that's what I'm told, I don't push back, I'm just glad to have the trail there without an easement for now, but I'm usually thinking that my retired landowner friend has way more free time to get it done than their busy kids will have. To any landowner thinking "someday" all I can say is, we do our very best to make the process easy for you when your someday finally arrives. The only real hassle is the darn forms need to be notarized so yeah, you'll need to stop by the bank or Town Clerk's office to make it happen.

As I said in the Winter *FLT News*, protecting the trail by purchasing key links is tedious. But we are doing just that and making some progress. The formal easement on the Tompkins County Map M18 parcel leading down to Coddington Road has been filed and Mike Schlicht plans to build the new trail there for one of the 2019 Alley Cat projects. As to when NYSDEC will actually purchase the property from our friends at The Finger Lakes Land Trust, it's sounding like mid-2019 at the earliest. We loaned the funds for FLLT to buy this parcel knowing it might be a while before DEC could purchase it and we would get most of our investment back so there is no surprise it's taking a while.

DEC's progress to purchase our White Church Road property is in the same boat. The DEC purchasing process is precise, detailed, and slow. As a taxpayer I have to appreciate their many checks and balances that insure nobody is ripping the State off selling them property with questionable title at inflated prices. The lesson being reinforced to me and to your FLT Board is that while protecting property by purchasing it and holding it until DEC can buy it from us does work, it is slow. It ties up our funds for multiple years, so unless we can raise a larger Sidote Trail Preservation fund balance, there is a limit how much we can do at once.

We do have enough funds for another project or two, and we're well into the preliminary stages of what we hope will become our next

one. Your Board has approved the project concept and as I write this, we have formal requests for bid out to four licensed appraisers. By the time you are reading it, we should have hired one of them and their appraisal of the target parcel will be finishing up. Then of course, based on that appraisal, we have to see if the landowner will still agree to sell for the appraised value. If so, we'll need a survey, to formalize a subdivision, and to close on the purchase. It's tedious. We can do this only for the most strategic "key" link parcels. But, thanks to our very generous Sidote Fund donors, and a lot of FLT volunteers working behind the scenes, we can indeed attempt to pull it off. If we do, when we do, I think FLT members will be pleased with how their Sidote Funds have been invested.

And hey, it only looks like we've been hibernating. Behind the scenes almost every day we make a little progress even if the easement program has been snoozing. 🍁



Michael "Bodhi" Rogers

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

FOR SALE: 30 wooded acres on Map M17, which feature a rustic house with wrap-around porch, three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1440 sq. feet. Off the grid, with solar, generator, and propane power for lights, fridge, stove. Near State Forest, on Eastman Hill south of Ithaca. Trail is currently next to the property but Cayuga Trail Club members are working on knitting together neighborhood permissions with the aim to put about 2000 feet of trail back on this property. \$275,000

Kathleen "Kat" Markowski
Licensed Real Estate Associate Broker
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Trail Topics: Map Updates

Greg Farnham, Director of Mapping

Maps updated since the last issue include B2, B3, M12, M13, M19, VML and M20. We also have a change to M14 in process.

The reasons for these changes may be found on the Trail Conditions page.

Last year Jo and I updated 35 maps. Most of the changes occurred in April and July through October. This distribution makes me think that it's too cold or wet to hike or do trail work very much in November through March, in addition to the hunting seasons that chase us out of the woods in October through the end of the year. Easy for a guy in the Arizona desert to say.

Changes have already begun in 2019, when all of the above maps were published.

Now if you really can't hike in the upstate New York winter, you might try the desert wilderness. I find the hiking seasons almost diametrically opposed. In the Northern Hemisphere's spring and summer months, while you all are enjoying the susurrus of the soft breezes soughing through the boughs, mottled shade moving around on the ground thanks to leaves on the tall, old growth branches swinging to and fro on their trunks, we must avoid the oppressing sun and heat. Our saguaro, cholla, and prickly pear provide only stingy shade, and only then if you dare get close enough to risk being punctured. While "lunch logs" abound for your leisure and relaxation mid-hike, we have to check under the occasional erratic before alighting, as the scorpions prefer the shade beneath the rock and don't take kindly to being disturbed during the heat of the day. While your chipmunks and salamanders scurry around and watch you go briskly by, our diamondback rattlers stretch out across the trail, soaking up the heat.

Note to the Editor from Greg: Byron David Farnham, 12/29/2018, 0600 EST. He was exactly 6 hours old at the time. I was exactly 567,763 hours old at the time. Photo by Paul G. Farnham, the father.

The baby is my son's son. I am in Akron, Ohio. I have thought of you every day here, because I have been hiking and running chunks of the Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail. Lots of CSX trains going by me very close. Yesterday I hiked a piece from the hospital and went over the "summit," 15 locks higher than Lake Erie. I wonder if that's why this county is named Summit County.



But when you are shivering in front of the fire, our days become bearable, our evenings chill us to the point of donning a sweater, and we can even find water in the desert to refresh. My experience trying to hike longer distances or spend a few nights "out" has been a streak of failure unmarked by enjoyment or success. I can't carry enough water with me to keep safe from dehydration. It is not prudent to count on finding even a "seep" in summer. I started packing my pack for a longer hike this morning, and noticed that it is coated in salt from my last hike. You sweat profusely here, but you don't notice it, because it evaporates so quickly you never feel damp. Before you know it, you're parched, and the water you kept in your car awaiting your return is over 100 degrees when you get to it. And in case you've never tried to gulp hot water, it is more nauseating than refreshing.

So while you're waiting out the next polar vortex, think about being grateful for the cold, the wind, and the frozen stuff falling from the sky. Be grateful for the shade, the breeze, the tree across the trail, the raspberry bramble, the overflowed creek, and even the black flies. Because...

Gratitude Changes Everything. 🍁

Contact: Greg Farnham
FLTCmapping@outlook.com



Warren Real Estate

Amicus Say What?

Dave Newman, VP of Trail Preservation

What the heck is an *amicus curiae* brief? Turns out it is one of those early 17th century Latin phrases used by our legal advisors and it translates roughly “friend of the court letter.” How come you’re reading about it here in the *FLT News*? In one of the Harry Potter films, Harry explains “It’s Complicated” and so is this, but it’s also important and might be interesting to some of you, so here goes, in decidedly non-legal and approximate terms as I’m an engineer not an attorney:

In Brighton, a suburb of Rochester, a developer purchased several properties, and applied for demolition permits and incentive zoning permits to put a Whole Foods (Amazon), a drive through Starbucks, and more onto what would normally be a too small parcel along one of the heaviest traveled stretches of highway in the County. So they couldn’t just go in with a project proposal that met existing zoning density codes; they had to seek variances. Among the many issues, the former Auburn (to Rochester) railroad line runs along the rear of the property and the Town of Brighton owns a Trail Access Easement there. The popular “Auburn” trail runs from Rochester, through Brighton and on to Pittsford where it connects to the Erie Canal Trail and the Lehigh Valley Trail, both of which connect to the Genesee Valley Greenway which of course links to the Finger Lakes Trail’s Letchworth branch and on to the FLT, NCT, Long Path, Appalachian Trail, Great Eastern Trail. Yep, you can walk from Brighton to Georgia, or North Dakota, or Canada, or Maine, all on marked trail. Rather incredibly, with the exception of a short zig to get across the canal at Mitchell Road, you can walk from Rochester to the Portageville Bridge south of Letchworth without having to take any road walks. Not that many people probably do start that walk in Brighton, but you can.

But hold on. It seems that to cram the Whole Foods store into that space the developer had to ask the Town to move the Auburn Trail off of the easement. The Town agreed that the developer could build loading docks and more parking over the trail area. The neighborhood association, who have fought what they feel will be a traffic nightmare every step of the way, took it to Court that the Town did not have the right to give up the Auburn Trail, which showed clearly on the Town Parklands map. Seems there is a State law that municipalities can’t get rid of parklands that they own without NYS Legislative approval. I kind of like that: the local good ole boys aren’t supposed to be able to let a developer take over a park (hmmm... for what kind of political action committee donations or other kind of under the radar compensation?) and our NYS Law has some check and balance requiring it has to be more than a local decision. So the Neighbors sued the developer and town that they couldn’t close the trail.

And the Judge decided that since the Town did not “own” the trail, they just owned an easement to the trail, they could give the easement away if they so desired. No approval by NYS Legislature was needed.

How am I doing so far? Like I said, it’s complicated. Here’s the kicker. If that ruling is allowed to stand, it actually applies to ALL

Towns across the State and it sets legal precedent that wherever there is a trail on property that a town has an easement to, but does not outright own the property, the town can do what they want with that easement with no further level of review. Like, give it away.

Do you spot why this matters to YOU yet? Here’s a clue: down in Steuben County, Town of Urbana, just west of Winding Stairs Road, the FLT crosses a private property on an easement. But, it’s not an easement owned by us, FLTC. It is owned by the Town of Urbana. Now, if those (fill in the nasty name words here) Urbana Zoning or Town Board folks decide to dump that easement, the FLT is out of luck, closed, long detour, up big hill.... You get the idea. Let me pause to say that Urbana is one of our most supportive municipalities, so it’s not about to happen, at least not in this generation. But it could. It sets a bad precedent that has never been in the State law before, that lands protected by an easement owned by a government entity are not protected by that NYS Legislative Review. (Oh, yeah, that has a name; it’s called the “Public Trust Doctrine” and best I can tell we inherited it from Britain when we were colonies). There are lots of places where trails may be on easements owned by government. Probably the best example is some rail trails, where the route is still owned by the railroad or by a utility company and the trail is there on an easement under the power lines or alongside the gas pipeline.

So... FLTC, Adirondack Mountain Club, Catskill Mountain Club and Parks and Trails New York have filed an “*Amicus Curiae*,” or Friend of the Court document, explaining why in our opinion the judge in the case made a mistake in interpreting the law and why trails running on easements owned by government entities should be equally protected as those running on property fully owned by government entities, that each should be covered by the Public Trust principles.

Your Executive Committee, acting for the Board, agreed that we would participate in the *Amicus* filing. Of all the potential parcels to use in the document, with the help of David Oliver, Assessor for the Town of Urbana, and Steve Catherman, we were able to identify the exact deed and subdivision maps that show the Winding Stairs Road area and those documents became “the” illustrative example being used in the brief. Our pro-bono legal advisor Bob Plaskov reviewed the draft document. There’s no legal “risk” to FLTC in submitting our *Amicus*, we’re not suing anyone, we’re just making sure that our opinions on the merits of the suit are being conveyed to the Appellate Division judge.

It’s a nice example of cooperation with ADK, Parks and Trails and CMC along with the Neighborhood Association, who picked up the cost for preparing the document, to attempt to block this detrimental judgment from standing. In the meantime, the demolition and construction have not begun and, if someone wants to, they can still follow the Auburn Trail uninterrupted to the FLT to the NCT in North Dakota. *AMICUS!* 🍁

Bridges by the Season - A Photo Essay



▼ *The decorated Bullthistle bridge in winter and in summer.*



Warren Johnsen

Peg Fuller



Joe Dabes

▼ ▲ *The new Breslin bridge in fall and now this winter.*

Breslin under snow?



Warren Johnsen



Warren Johnsen

2019 County Hike Series - 75 Miles on the FLT in Chenango County

Donna Coon

Thinking about hiking part or all of the Finger Lakes Trail? Looking to do some day hikes without worrying about transportation logistics? Or maybe you are just looking for someone to hike with. If so, do consider joining us for the 2019 Cross County Hike Series.

Each year the FLT leads a series of hikes along the Finger Lakes Trail named after the county you are mainly hiking through. Each series continues where the previous series ended. In eight years all of the Main FLT is covered.

Hikers split into groups according to hiking pace. Each group has an experienced hike leader and a sweep. Hikers should be able to hike 12 to 13 miles over varied terrain. If this seems a bit long, we are offering a "half hike" option. For this option hikers would do the first half of the hike with the main group on Saturday and complete the second half of the hike on Sunday. Leaders will be provided for the Sunday hike, but there will be no buses for Sunday's "half hikes." We will use a car shuttle method instead.

This year we will be hiking in Chenango County. You will encounter rolling hills, babbling brooks, stone fences, and serene forests. The FLT in Chenango County passes through 13 different State Forests, one Wildlife Management Area and a State Park. The trail goes by one fire tower, two memorial benches and the remnants of an old CCC Camp. There will be opportunities to visit up to five lean-tos.

The 2019 series consists of six hikes covering 75 miles. We will be hiking on trail covered by parts of maps M22 and M26 and all of maps M23-M25. The hikes are the third Saturday of the month starting in April and ending in September. Dates are April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th, August 17th, and September 21.

Registration fee covers transportation by bus that will shuttle hikers from their cars placed at the end point of each hike to the beginning of each hike. Those who complete the hike series will receive a patch. This year the final hike in September coincides with the FLT Fall Weekend hosted by the Bullthistle Hiking Club, an opportunity to celebrate with even more friends of the trail.

You can register online anytime and pay securely via PayPal using a PayPal account or a credit card.



Registration must be received by April 10, 2019. <https://fingerlakestrail.org/whats-happening/hiking-programs/cross-county-hike-series/registration/>

Information is communicated to registrants via a google group. If you register and don't hear from us by April 15, contact Larry Blumberg at lblumberg@stny.rr.com

If you have any questions, or wish to register after the deadline please contact hike coordinator, Donna Coon at coledonnarn@yahoo.com. 🍁

Howard Beye Hike on January 19th

Sigi Schwinge

With the start of a big snow storm forecast for the afternoon, turnout was low, just four hardy hikers plus Mike Ogden and Sigi Schwinge, the leaders. Scott Bowen, landowner and trail steward, allowed us to park off the road (snowplows were out and salting) on his property; thank you, Scott. Sigi had prehiked the upper half of the this section of the Onondaga Trail (with the ADK-ON Wednesday hikers) the Wednesday before up to the creek in the middle, which was high and running well. Sigi therefore decided not to do a through-hike on Saturday but would do an in-and-back to the creek from the meeting point on Keeney Rd., about 4.5 miles. We walked in a winter wonderland under gray skies with good conversation, up and up and then some more up, had

a rest-n-munch at the creek, which had gone down a bit, then walked down again, while the sun peeked a little. We all agreed that it was a good walk but we'd better get home quick (with a bit slippery roads) before the snow storm really started.

Sigi and Mike wished it had been as nice and sunny a day as on last year's winter hike when we led 12 hikers fully enjoying the Fellows Hill Loop on O1. Oh well... 🍁

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, April 27, 2019

2019 Wally Wood Spring Hike

FLT Map - Map M4

Hike Leaders:

Donna and Marty Ruszaj - msruszaj@gmail.com

716-250-8340

In conjunction with the Foothills Trail Club

Where Trails Meet - Finger Lakes Main Trail and the Conservation Trail,
FLT Map M4 Rev 05/16

Hike Description:

The 2019 Wally Wood hike will be held on Map M4 in the Town of Ashford in Cattaraugus County. The hike celebrates the efforts of Wally Wood to join the Conservation branch trail with the Finger Lakes main trail. Wally along with Foothills Trail Club founding member Mable James had the foresight to join the east – west FLT with the north – south Conservation Trail. The result of this effort allows hikers to travel from Slide Mountain in the Catskills to Niagara Falls. The connectivity continues after crossing the Rainbow Bridge into Ontario to meet up with the eastern terminus of the famed Bruce Trail, which heads onward to Tobermory where the Peninsula bisects the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron.

On Saturday April 27th two hiking options will be available to commemorate the work of Wally and Mabel. The full hike will start at M4-Access 1 (Fancy Tract Road intersection with NYS Rt. 240). Early in this 10-mile trek we will pass the junction with the southern terminus of the Conservation Trail and then continue on the Main Trail, exploring the FLT donated land (John Cobb) and the Blue Loop trail. After crossing over the Devereaux Creek, a short road walk will take us into Boyce Hill State Forest. A vertical challenge will greet us as we make our way through the pine forest, past the 2012 constructed lean-to and on to the highest point where we are greeted with a beautiful pond. As we end the hike near Cash Park, take a moment to reflect on the efforts of all who made this journey possible as we take a well-deserved lunch in the picnic area constructed by Finger Lakes Trail member Tony Orsini.

(see: https://fingerlakestrail.org/wp-content/uploads/FLTC_Files/FLTNews/FLTNews2017-3-R.pdf).

Weather permitting, members of the Foothills Trail Club will be cooking and serving hot dogs as we rest our tired feet.

The second hike will start at M4-Access 2 and will cover 3.8 miles through Boyce Hill State Forest.

Meeting time

Hike 1 (10 miles) – 9 AM – Spot cars on Fancy Tract Rd.

Hike 2 (3.8 miles) – 11 AM – Spot cars on Phillips Rd.

Location

Meet-up and Parking will be at Cash Park, Franklinville, on Bakerstand Rd. near intersection with Rogers Rd. (42.341689, -78.500347) See Map M4.

Gift In Memory of

Ivan Cranmer

from

Donna Noteware

Gift In Memory of

Tom Noteware

from

***Nowhere Hiking Group
Anne & John Keddy***

Gift In Memory of

Ken Bremer

from

Pamela A. McCarrick

Gift In Memory of

Bill Mitchell

from

***Nathan Pendelton &
Sharon Furman***

Board Nominations

All members of the FLT are invited to the Annual Business Meeting of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc., on Saturday, June 8th, at 4 p.m. at University of Pittsburgh, Bradford, Pa. Campus. Members will vote on the nominees, listed below, for the Board of Managers. Other nominations may be made in accordance with our bylaws. A proxy form for those unable to attend will be mailed in March. Further information may be requested from the FLT Service Center at 585/658-9320.

Nominees for the Class of 2021 Board of Managers.

Peg Fuller

Scott Geiger

Rogers Hopkins

Tim Sweeney

Peter Wybron

PEG FULLER

I discovered hiking on the Finger Lakes Trail when my husband, Mike, and I moved to South Otselic. One of the trailheads is on our road and that made it more interesting to explore. The following spring (2013), I joined the Bullthistle Hiking Club in Norwich. This helped me learn about hiking and about the FLT. I have been a hike leader for several years, including leading Ed Sidote named hikes. I have been the treasurer and vice-president of the BHC and currently serve as president. Mike and I are trail maintainers and have participated in Alley Cat projects. I am also a member of the Triple Cities Hiking Club. I was on the committee for the 2015 FLT Spring weekend the BHC hosted. The BHC is currently planning the FLT Fall weekend for September 2019 to be hosted in Norwich.

I enjoy taking pictures of all the places I hike, truly appreciating the beauty of our area. Rain, snow, hot or cold, I find hiking to be a great activity. A couple times a year, I organize a dog hike along with another BHC member. Those hikes are extremely fun and we have dogs of all varieties and hiking ability attend. The BHC had the opportunity to share the beauty of hiking with a middle school photography club. It was fascinating to see the hike in pictures from so many different points of view. Hopefully we showed them that the FLT is a great place to hike and take pictures.

Prior to moving to N.Y., I lived in N.J. I retired as a Captain from the Woodbridge Police Department. I am currently a part time financial officer for the New Jersey Public Safety Accreditation Coalition. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting police departments achieve accreditation. I am also an assessor for accreditation compliance with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, which is an international police accrediting agency. I own an internet business that specializes in



Warren Johnsen

saving people money shopping for anything on the internet. I also focus on health and nutrition products that have been proven to help people optimize their health.

Our four dogs are a major focus in our lives. They enjoy spending time hiking in the woods with me and on our property. I am a volunteer at Glen Highland Farm Border Collie rescue in Morris, N.Y.

Thank you for this opportunity to be a Board of Managers member.

SCOTT GEIGER

I discovered the FLT in March of 2010 while searching for some new hiking trails. After the first I hike I was hooked and decided that I wanted to try to complete an E2E. I began assisting the FLTC in 2014 as part of the social media team. I later took over managing that group and in the spring of 2017 moved into the position of Web Master and Social Media Manager.

In my full-time job I am an Assistant Director for the ITS Department at Binghamton University. I manage a team of six developers. We work with numerous departments across campus. In August 2018 I also began teaching for the School of Management. The course has approximately 200 - 300 students.

I also have a couple "side gigs." I work for the Broome County Board of Elections. I teach election classes for the inspectors (people who work the poll sites) and also manage 13 districts across 9 poll sites on election days. My other «gig» is hosting and developing web sites and managing the server those sites are hosted on.

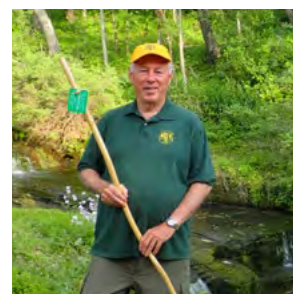
I grew up in Corning and attended West High. I attended Corning Community College for two years and then transferred to Indiana University in Bloomington, where I graduated from the Kelley School of Business with a B.S. in Marketing in 1996. In 2006 I began working on my MBA at Binghamton University part-time and graduated with honors in 2012.

ROGER HOPKINS

I have been a member of the Board of Managers since 2009 serving as Webmaster, Chair of the IT-Website committee, and Chair of the Land Navigation Committee. I was elected to the Classes of 2012 and 2015, appointed to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2017,



Timothy Oefelein



Ruth Hopkins

and then elected to the Class of 2019. I thank the nominations committee for nominating me for the Class of 2022. I have been a member of the Executive board of the Cayuga Trails Club since 2007 and a volunteer and committee member of the Finger Lakes Land Trust since 2010. I was also a founding member of the Lansing Pathways Committee from 2012 to 2016.

I live in Lansing with my wife of 50 years, Ruth. We are both active in the Town of Lansing and the City of Ithaca, even though we spend a few weeks every spring and fall in south-western Colorado exploring the primitive areas of the San Juan Mountains of Colorado and the canyon/desert regions of SW Utah.

My hopes for this final term on the BOM are to step back from active management of the IT/Website effort, now in the capable hands of Scott Geiger, Tim Sweeney, and Chase Gregory. I wish to spend a bit more time hiking than sitting at my computer. I also hope to help out with efforts to recreate our database and make it available to help our volunteers with their efforts to keep the FLT "New York's Premiere Footpath." I also want to continue to work with our partners and to find new partners to help accomplish this same goal.

TIM SWEENEY

What role do I serve with the FLT

My involvement with the internal workings of the FLT began in November of 2015 after Pat made a presentation to the Triple Cities Hiking Club. Then in 2017 I was asked to serve on the Board of Managers.



Sue Thomas

Over this time period I've been involved with a wide range of activities including:

- Working with the Website - IT Committee on the successful revamp and migration of the website as well as the transition from fltconference.org to fingerlakestrail.org
- Acquiring, setting up and managing the Finger Lakes Trail Google for Non-Profits account
- Working within the Website - IT Committee to manage and resolve a wide range technical issues
- Working with other board members to improve and/or enhance processes
- Leading hikes on the trail

Perhaps more importantly, I've had the opportunity to work with and get to know many of the interesting people who contribute to the FLT.

My hiking experiences

I've been hiking since the early 1990s and have covered a wide range of trails including the entire ADK 46, Catskills 35 and of course the FLT from end to end. I'm a long-time member of the Triple Cities Hiking Club and FLT. Both my wife and I can often

be found hiking the FLT during weekends either on our own or when we lead hikes.

What experiences and skill sets do I have to contribute to the FLT?

I have over 20 years' experience in ecommerce, online and local marketing and analytics. This includes working with organizations ranging from ecommerce to biotechnology research companies. In addition, I participate in the Google Partners program which requires certification across a wide range of digital marketing specialties. This experience is augmented with substantial investments of time and resources in continuing education in these fields. This is critical as all of these fields are continuously evolving and changing.

PETER WYBRON

I was born in Auburn, N.Y., in 1949. I grew up in the suburbs of Buffalo (Tonawanda/Kenmore), and moved to York, N.Y. in 1977, where I have lived ever since. While hiking in Allegany State Park, with my wife Dee, in the early 1990s I came across a trail sign for the North Country Trail. I contacted them to see if I could help maintain the trail in my area. They put me in touch with Howard Beye who was with an organization called the "Finger Lakes Trail Conference." In turn Howard put me in contact with Irene Szabo and that is where my story begins. I have been involved with the FLT/NCT ever since. I joined both the FLTC and the NCTA in 1995. I was appointed to the FLTC Board of Managers in 1996 to fill a vacancy and became Treasurer in that same year and served in that position until 2012. In that capacity I also served on the Finance and Investment committees.



Mckenzie Wybron

I have been an individual trail sponsor on FLT Map M9 & M10 for over 20 years. Presently I maintain 3 miles of trail in and around Bully Hill State Forest on Map M9. I have worked on many Alley-Cat crews in the late 1990s and early 2000s, helping to build lean-tos (with logs) in Allegany State Park and Burt Hill State Forest. In addition to being a trail sponsor I am also the Regional Trail Coordinator-Genesee East and serve as Quartermaster for the FLTC.

Now that I'm almost retired, I accepted the nomination to serve once again on the FLTC Board of Managers. I look forward to doing what I can to promote and protect the Finger Lakes Trail and the Finger Lakes Trail Conference.

A Naturalist's View

By D. Randy Weidner

If you have been hikers of the Finger Lakes Trail for several years, I do not have to remind you that last year's weather was rather strange. A cool, drawn-out spring gave rise to an exceptionally wet summer (*except in Genesee County, where I barely mowed in dry July! Editor*), followed by a delayed and unprecedentedly abrupt fall, and an initially harsh, then mild early winter. Conditions along the Trail varied this winter, with some stretches receiving little snow, or having repeated snowfalls that came and went with fluctuating warm temperatures, leaving the ground bare of its usual persistent blanket of snow. Then it got exceptionally cold in late January. Just an odd year, or was it the result of climate change? From a short perspective it is hard to say.

Most of us who pursue outdoor activities pay close attention to the weather forecasts. If you do, and especially if you look a week or more ahead to plan activities, you are no doubt noticing that weather prognostication is not what it used to be. There seems no doubt that climate change is affecting this ability to predict upcoming weather. Deeper fluctuations in the jet stream and other climate factors are messing with the old weather models. So as winter melds into spring, what natural events, those time-honored "harbingers" of spring, can we rely on to encourage us that spring has indeed arrived?



Skunk Cabbage

Randy Weidner



Wood Frog

Randy Weidner

Perhaps your first clue of impending spring is that day you go for a hike when the sun is shining and you feel the air is noticeably warmer. Trekking along, you are additionally aware of wet, soggy mud, not the hard, frozen trail of winter. Disturbing this mud releases a type of petrichor, that pleasant earthy smell from wet ground. But not all spring odors are pleasant. Skunks emerge and mark their territories with their pungent spray. Accidentally stepping on Skunk Cabbage releases a similar fragrance. Should you pass a Sugar Maple, where a squirrel has gnawed a low branch releasing a drip of sap, catch some on your finger and taste the faint maple flavor. Your senses of touch, olfaction, and taste have given you clues of spring to come. But we all know there can be brief breaks in winter producing these effects. Better to rely on the biological signs of spring.



Eastern Phoebe

Dianne McCullough

What clues can you garner from natural sounds? Spring is notoriously windy, but the spring sound of wind varies little from the winter sound, as deciduous trees still are free of leaves. Nearing a wet area, you might encounter the distinctive, high-pitched jingle of Spring Peepers, those vocally over-achieving, fingernail-sized frogs. Perhaps your walk takes you near a vernal pool. Upon approaching the pool, at some distance, you might detect the quacking of mating Wood Frogs. As you get closer they get quieter, and at poolside, all are silent, but obvious by their underwater swirls and egg masses. Also, close to the pool, check under logs and stones for salamanders crawling to and from their breeding sites. But anywhere along the trail in spring should be the calls and songs of newly arrived birds, not just the same old sounds produced by winter residents. Certainly an American Robin, singing his cheery song or issuing an alarm whinny if surprised by you, is the quintessential “harbinger” of

spring. That said, back by the wetlands, the “conk-er-eeee” of the Red-winged Blackbird probably preceded the Robin. (*I’ve been tracking that first redwing for forty years, and so far it’s always March 3rd or 4th; will I live long enough to see that change?* Editor) Another early arriving bird, the Eastern Phoebe, perches and wags its tail while issuing a harsh, scratchy “fee-BEE.” In denser woods along the Finger Lakes Trail, more commonly in recent years, another early song is the slow, slurred, two-noted declaration of the Blue-headed Vireo. And certainly in the woods or along fields, especially early in the morning, be alert for the loud, challenging gobble of the Wild Turkey.



Blue-headed Vireo

Randy Weidner



Robin

Jennifer Schlick



Redwing Blackbird

Randy Weidner



Trailing Arbutus

Randy Weidner

But we humans are creatures who mainly experience our world by sight. Vegetation is the most obvious feature of our landscape, and trees are the most conspicuous plants. Most of us know to look for “pussy willows.” In many years, before the willows flower, the tips of Red Maple branches break open flowers with red sepals and petals and yellow stamens. The winds of spring often break these clusters of floral sprouts, where you can find them littering the ground. But the real harbingers of spring among the plants

are on the forest floor. If you pay careful attention you can notice the mosses appear brighter green. Each year it is interesting to note the first floral bloom. Among the contenders found in wet areas are Skunk Cabbages, which not only stink if broken, but before the leaves, send up dark-purple and green hooded structures inside of which are tiny flowers. Skunk Cabbage cheats the other plants by generating heat, and with a sensitive enough thermometer, you



Hepatica

Randy Weidner

can find the temperature inside that hood a few degrees warmer than the surrounding air.

Hugging the ground with a mat of dark-green leathery leaves is Trailing Arbutus, with white to pink tiny trumpet shaped flowers that, if you get your nose right down close, smell incredibly sweet. Arbutus nearly always wins the first upland flower in my section of the Finger Lakes Trail. Usually a close second, and sometimes beating the Arbutus, is Hepatica, with its white, pale blue, or nearly purple 6-7 petaled flower on a stalk, rising above hairy, flat, tri-lobed leaves. Along roadsides, look for dandelion-like Colt's-foot, and in open areas of poor soil, check for the tiny, white-flowered blooms of Bittercress. In some places the first flower is the Spring Beauty with its rose-veined white petals. There may be other early flowers as well in certain areas. And not to be forgotten are the fungi. Long before any Morels, keep alert for bright red Scarlet Cups fruiting on old logs or buried wood.

Astronomically, spring begins on March 20. That's all well and good, but not very helpful as a sign of biological spring, which is influenced year to year by temperature and other weather factors. Climate change is affecting the occurrence of various spring phenomena, making calendar dates even less reliable. As you hike the trail each new spring, take note of these various "harbingers," and over several seasons see which are most dependable for you. Such an exercise is a great way to enhance your appreciation of Nature as you hike our Finger Lakes Trail. 🍁



Spring Beauties

Randy Weidner



Scarlet Cap

Randy Weidner

SUPPORT THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL AND GET A FREE MEMBERSHIP

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



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

You can also join online at: northcountrytrail.org

Name(s) of New Member(s) _____	
Address Line 1 _____	
Address Line 2 _____	
City/State/Zip _____	
Phone () _____	Email _____
Please Choose a Chapter Affiliation if You Wish (Check One)	
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Comments _____	

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

North Country Trail News: A New Route is Within Reach

By Andrea Ketchmark, Executive Director, NCTA

The North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act is legislation that includes two important changes to the original route of the NCT, a change in Minnesota called the Arrowhead and an extension into Vermont to meet the famed Appalachian Trail.

Although both changes have been called “no-brainers,” the process for changing the route of a Congressionally designated trail is not simple. Both changes required a feasibility study by the National Park Service to examine all potential routes which took years. Once complete, we then went to Congress to amend the National Trails System Act to reference the new route.


Over the past two decades, we’ve had several versions of the legislation introduced. Some years we had some success and others there was no movement. Our volunteers and partners have worked tirelessly to let members of Congress know how important this change would be for their local communities. Each session of Congress ended with no action, until now.

In 2018, the route adjustment act passed the House but was stalled in the Senate along with more than a hundred other bills that dealt with public lands that had been passed out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. So in 2019, these bills, including the NCT route adjustment and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), ended up in a package of bills that was introduced by Senator Murkowski as S.47, the Natural Resources Management Act.

In mid-February, the Senate passed S.47 by a vote of 92-8, an incredible show of bipartisan support. Now it’s up to the House of Representatives and the message to them is to take up the bill the Senate passed instead of trying to build their own package. Both parties seem prepared to do that in the next few weeks. If they do and it passes, it will then go to the President for signing and then the new route is a reality.



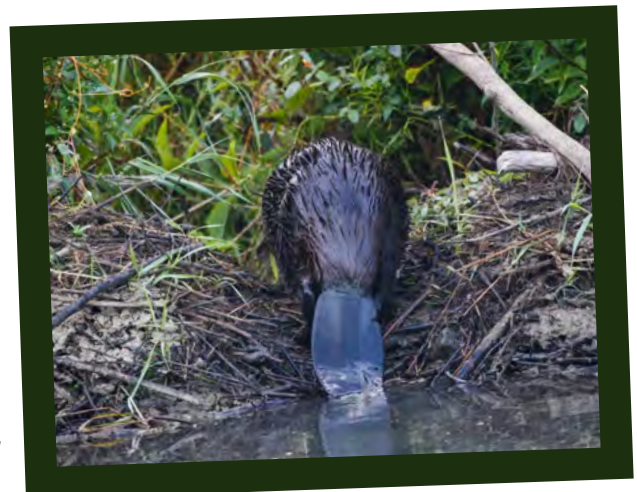
The same week, Representatives Welch from Vermont and Stauber from Minnesota introduced a stand-alone bill in the House (H.R. 1216), which means we’ll have our bases covered in the event S.47 doesn’t make it in the House.

Learn more about the reroute, LWCF and other issues important to the North Country Trail Advocacy page, at northcountrytrail.org/our-work/advocacy/ 

Our own Roy and Laurie Dando hiked the Superior Hiking Trail in Minnesota this past year, and really liked it. And of course Ruth and Dan Dorrough from Canandaigua hiked the whole “Arrowhead” proposed route while they were on their journey to finish the whole North Country Trail. The original proposed route assumed that hikers can walk on water, so many of us are rooting for the Arrowhead Route Adjustment! On 2/26, the bill was passed intact, so after 26 years our NCT route adjustment can go to the President for signature. Hurray! Editor



Hard as it is to catch sight of beaver in daylight, Tom Reimers caught these pictures at the Roy Park Preserve of the Finger Lakes Land Trust. How we’ll miss Tom’s good pictures!



SCOUT LEADERS

Are you a Scout leader, involved with a Cub Pack, Scout BSA Troop, or Venturing Crew? If so, we'd like to invite you to subscribe to a new BSA / FLT Googlegroup being formed for Scout leaders who are interested in helping to further promote the FLT to their units, District, or Council.

Larry Blumberg (lblumberg@stny.rr.com) will be serving as the moderator for this new Googlegroup. To subscribe please send an email to Larry requesting to be added to the new BSA / FLT googlegroup.

The googlegroup will focus on helping your unit learn more about the FLT for hiking, camping, and backpacking. Additionally, the Googlegroup will provide you with the information and materials you need to help promote the FLT to your fellow Scout leaders. It will also serve as a means for connecting your unit (and Eagle Scout candidates) with the appropriate FLT Regional Trail Coordinator for setting up FLT service projects.

Anyone involved at their District or Council level? You are invited to subscribe to the Googlegroup, as well. We can use your help to promote the FLT at camporees, Roundtables, University of Scouting, and various venues like these!

NEW T-SHIRT

The sales of promotional clothing has changed in recent years to event- or program-centered clothing items, in order to avoid tying up a lot of money in inventory at the office. However, two new members and brand-new trail sponsors were surprised to learn that they couldn't buy a standard FLT T-shirt at all! Kristi Nomm and Pete Marcov were justifiably disappointed, so when this dilemma was brought to Executive Director Quinn Wright's attention, he agreed that a standard shirt would be a good promotional item to make available all the time.

I dragged out an old shirt I've always worn when I'm doing a speaking engagement, because it shows the map of our whole trail, so Quinn had that design modernized to include the Crystal Hills Branch. It will be on sale soon, but don't ask the office when! Soon is all we can tell you now. Men's and women's versions offered, in Sport Tek wicking material, cost \$16.00.

Soon,
Irene Szabo



VOLUNTEER AT FINGER LAKES TRAIL DAYS 2019 IN BATH, N.Y.

Sign up to be a volunteer at the first annual Finger Lakes Trail Days Festival during the last weekend of July 2019 at the Steuben County Fairgrounds in Bath, N.Y. The Fest encourages all ages to enjoy outdoor recreation and features a weekend of hiking, local food, local music, overnight camping, and outdoor recreation activities! Scheduled Fest activities are Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27, 2019. We are asking for volunteers for Friday and Saturday events, as well as Sunday to assist overnight campers checking out. Please contact Anna Keeton, the volunteer coordinator for the event, at annakeeton383@gmail.com to sign up soon for this fun weekend. The Finger Lakes Trail system is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers, and we look forward to seeing everyone that weekend.

Volunteer areas include event setup/teardown, entrance gates, parking guides, campground hosts, information booth, ushers, recycling & trash, assisting vendor booths, entertainment check-in/orientation, and AV/Tech. We'll match volunteers with preferred areas, days & times, and are creating volunteer packages to offset expenses that weekend.

Bonus: volunteer hours for this event will be included in the new challenge to win a 50-foot section of trail boardwalk. That's right, a FREE boardwalk! The FLT Regional Trail Coordinator with the most total volunteer hours from their group at the International Trail Symposium in Syracuse April 28-May 1 and Finger Lakes Trail Days July 26-July 28, 2019 will win the boardwalk and decide where to locate it on public lands in their district where a boardwalk is needed. A vendor showcasing at the spring Symposium is donating the boardwalk.

Contact Deb Nero at dn13@cornell.edu to sign up as a volunteer for the Symposium. She is also looking for volunteers to lead short hikes in the Bath/Hammondsport area for July's Trail Days.

Please forward this request to your local hiking clubs and other clubs who might like to participate.

Many thanks again to volunteers!



Send address changes to:

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

PASSAGES

Tom Reimers died after a stroke on January 23rd, 2019, two days after he had attended his Cayuga Trails Club's annual meeting and dinner. He had been suffering from growing cancers for at least two years. He had been a longtime trail maintainer in the Ithaca area, hike leader who could identify most plants for hikers, editor of the club's wonderful guide book for years, and editor for this magazine for ten years, two editors ago. He created our original promotional slide show, created our first website after teaching himself how to run one, and wrote a guide to B&Bs near the trail.

Back around 1990, he was simultaneously President of the North Country Trail Association and the Finger Lakes Trail Conference for three years. Board members were astonished at how efficient he was at conducting meetings, especially one time when we were done by noon! He was honored with the FLT's Wally Wood Award and the Lifetime Achievement Awards from both the FLTC and the NCTA, and the Finger Lakes Land Trust named him Conservationist of the Year in 2006.

Tom grew up in Nebraska, and came to Ithaca and Cornell with his Ph.D. in animal endocrinology to work in the Veterinary Medicine School, and brought his bicycle with him. After one week in Ithaca, a town of constant hills rising in all directions, he sold his bike. He was generous and caring, donating noteworthy amounts of both money and effort to several conservation causes. Gary Mallow of the Cayuga Trails Club praises Tom for luring him into hiking and service to the trail. Many of us lost a major contributor and friend with Tom's sudden departure, and opera lost a huge fan.

Because he retired at a relatively young age, I guess I assumed he was older than I am. You can't tell much with a skinny bald guy with a gray beard. Now I know that he died at 73, a month younger than I am.

Irene Szabo



Irene Szabo

CHAINSAW TRAINING

Mandatory training for chain sawyers, who need renewal, working anywhere on the FLT will be offered in May over two weekends, May 4-5 or May 18-19. As of early February, there was one opening left for the earlier one, and four openings available for the second weekend. So jump on this opportunity!

Lodging will be available in the Hammondsport Scout House, and training work will be in the Birdseye Hollow State Forest, southeast of Hammondsport. For details or to sign up, contact coordinator Maarty Howden, howser51@yahoo.com or 585/330-1872 cell.

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.)

<i>Youth (under 17)</i>	\$15	<i>Sustaining:</i>	
<i>Student (under 24)</i>	\$15	<i>Pathfinder (Bronze)</i>	\$100
<i>Limited Income</i>	\$30	<i>Trail Blazer (Silver)</i>	\$250
<i>Adult</i>	\$40	<i>Trail Builder (Gold)</i>	\$251-\$500
<i>Family</i>	\$60	<i>Trail Guide (Diamond)</i>	\$501-\$1000
<i>Youth Organization</i>	\$30	<i>Trail Patron (Platinum)</i>	over \$1000
<i>Lifetime (Individual)</i>	\$600	<i>Lifetime (Family)</i>	\$900
<i>Business/Corporate:</i>			
<i>Bronze</i>	\$100	<i>Diamond</i>	\$1000
<i>Silver</i>	\$250	<i>Platinum</i>	\$2500
<i>Gold</i>	\$500		

Finger Lakes Trail Conference – 2019 Annual Meeting
June 7 to June 9, 2019 - Hosted by Foothills Trail Club
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, 300 Campus Drive, Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701

FLTC/Foothills Trail Club Spring Weekend 2019 Annual Meeting-Hike Schedule

Gather at Student Union, Frame-Westerberg Commons in the center of campus

Friday, June 7, 2019

Friday June 7, 2019

A1- Section I of III of Allegany State Park from Asp 1 to Bay State, FLT M1

Leader: 5.8 m Moderate.

Meet at Bay State access 8 at 10:00 a.m. car pool to ASP 1 at France Brook in park, access 5, hike to cars. The trail winds through a mature forest of hardwoods and evergreens past Beck Hollow Lean-to built by FLT. This is part one of a three day series through the park.

A2 - Indian Pipe Trail

Hike Leader: Dee McCarthy. Easy to Moderate. 5 m.

Meet at 12:00 at the Student Union. This trail links the Marilla Reservoir to Allegany State Park. It is wide and smooth and crosses the Allegheny northern hardwood forest. If we are lucky, we may spot the Indian Pipe Flower also known as the Ghost Flower along the way. This will be an in and out hike.

A3 - Part I of II hike Allegany State Park. FLT.M1

Leader: Brock Carmichael Moderate to Strenuous 11.0 m

Meet at 9:00 at ASP 3 access 4 in park, car pool to Bay State access 8, hike up 700' to Beck Hollow lean to, down to ASP 1, to Stony Brook Lean to and back to cars.

A4 - Bike around Allegany State Park

Bike Leader: Annette Brzezicki, Moderate 30 m.

Meet at 12:00 at parking lot on Campus Drive and Dorothy Lane. Drive to ASP and bike the perimeter of Allegany State Park on the road.. Bring lunch and water.

A5 - Blaisdell-Emery Trail

Leader Jeanne Moog, Easy 3.8 m .

Meet at Bradford College by noon at student union. Drive to Owens Way in south Bradford, car pool to Lewis Run hike on multiple use trail and hike back to Owens Way along an abandoned railway trail following the East Branch of Tuna Creek.

A6 - R.E. McDowell Trail

Hike Leader: Self guided. 2.6 m. Easy

This paved trail is on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh's Bradford Campus with gentle grades. The trailhead is along Campus Drive across from the Kessel Athletic Complex and follows the West Branch of Tuna Creek in a beautiful setting with bridges, benches and a gazebo. There's plenty of parking at both ends.

Saturday, June 8, 2019

B1 - Part II of III Allegany State Park M1

Hike leader: 7.2 m. Moderate.

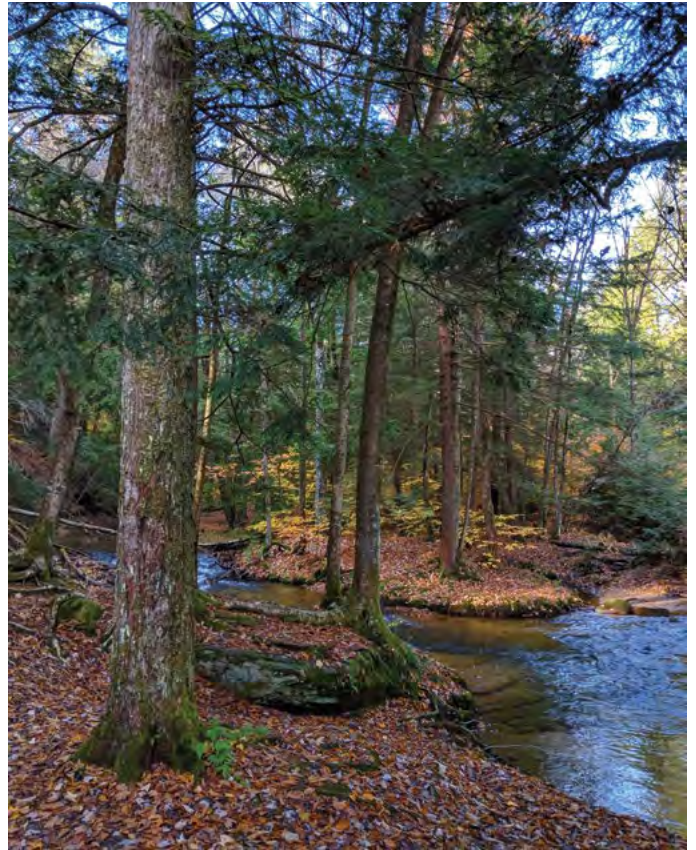
Leave Bradford at 9:00 a.m. Drive to Coon Run Road access 3

via Rt.346, car pool to ASP 1, France Brook, access 5 and hike through Allegany State Park to Stony Brook lean-to, cross ASP 3 and back to cars on Coon Run Road.

B2 - Part II of II Hike Allegany State Park, FLT M1

Hike Leader: Kirk Doyle 11.5 m. Moderate to Strenuous.

Leave Bradford at 8:30 a.m. from student union. Drive to ASP 3 access 4 of Allegany State Park via Interstate Parkway. Hike to Coon Run Road to Willis Creek Lean-to and spring, cross Wolf Run Creek on a 45' bridge built by FLT, downhill to old woods road, cross the N.Y. border into Penna. and back to cars.



Chris Zachary

Woods and creek are on the Minister Creek Trail.

B3 - Minister Creek Trail off the North Country Trail

Hike Leader: Chuck Feldman 10 m. Moderate to Strenuous.

Leave Bradford at 8:30 a.m. from student union. Trail head parking is located on SR 666 west of Minister Creek Campground 14.7 m southwest of Sheffield, Penna. The trail joins the NCT along northerly segment. This loop trail is considered more difficult as it climbs to the plateau within the Minister Creek Wilderness Study Area. Fishing can be done in Minister Creek. Mature trees and

older vegetation grow throughout and the tread follows on old railroad grades used in early logging.

B4 - Geo-Caching Hike with Mike Ogden at Timberdoodle Flats and temporary GPS trail. 3:00 p.m.

Meet on campus at student union and bring your phone or GPS unit and learn how to read and follow coordinates. Timberdoodle Flats examines labelled wildlife habitat, layer by layer. Found on Rt #59 near the University, this hike is an excellent opportunity to learn a new skill or practice finding the hidden GPS locations. 1 m. Easy.

B5 - Willow Bay to Nelse Run-NCT ANF 97 to 87

Leaders: Donna and Marty Ruszaj Group 1, 10.2 m. (Medium Fast I.)

Leave Bradford campus at 9:00, spot cars at Nelse Run Rte. #321. Drive to start at Willow Bay Recreation Area. Hike north to south on the ridge of the Allegheny Reservoir with great views to the west. Moderate elevation changes as we pass the reservoir's inlets at Tracy Run North, Johnnycake and Handsom Lake.

B5 - Willow Bay to Tracy Ridge NCT ANF 97 to Tracy Ridge

Leader: Robert Chau Group 2, 6 m (Medium to relaxed pace)
Leave Bradford campus at 9:15, spot cars at trail end, Tracy Ridge on Penna. Rt.#321. Drive to Willow Bay Recreational area and see above for description.

B6 - Bullis Hollow Trail

Leader: Nick Scarano 8.3 m. Moderate.

Leave Bradford at 9:00 a.m. Drive to Rt. #173 off the #346, car pool to Tracy Ridge #321 off #346. Hike the connector trail from Tracy Ridge to Marilla Spring Trails through Allegheny National Forest. The trail runs through the Chestnut Ridge Wilderness Study Area connecting to the Marilla Trails.

B7 - Morrison Trail

Leader: Claudia Lawler, 8.8 m, Moderate.

Leave campus at 9:00 a.m. Drive south on Rt #219 to # 770 to #59

W. Parking on Rt. #59 past Ranger Station on second left parking area. Hike south following tread 5.5 m to Morrison Campground, loop back 2.0 m. to intersection, hike back to cars through ferns, mountain laurel and a mature forest.



Chris Zachary

This area is Little Rock City on steroids.

B8 - Sky Walk at Kinzua Bridge State Park

Leader: Lois Justice 4.0 m Easy to Moderate.

Leave campus at 9:30 Drive south on #219 to Rt. #321 and drive Visitor's Center to view tornado damage with breathtaking views over the 600 foot ravine. Hike pathways in the park down into the valley and back. This hike is a great opportunity for excellent photos.

Sunday, Hikes, June 9

C1 - Part III of III Allegany State Park FLT M1

Leader: Robert Chau . 8.6 miles. Moderate

Leave Bradford at 8:30 a.m. from student union. Drive to parking area on Penna. Rt #346 access 1. Car pool to Coon Run Road access 3. Hike to Willis Creek over many small bridges to Willis Creek lean-to. Travel over switchbacks up to Park Trail 1, cross Wolf Run Creek on a 45' bridge built by FLT, back into the woods and descend to the N.Y. border with Pennsylvania. Continue to parking area passing the FLT sign.

C2 - Morrison Trail Loop

Leader: open 5.8 Moderate.

Leave from Bradford at 9:00 to travel south on Rt #219 to #770 to #59 W. Parking on Rt #59 past Ranger Station on second left parking area. Hike south following gray arrows to trail branch, turn left and hike through ferns under a mature wooded canopy and mountain laurel back to parking area. View large rock formations and creek bed.

C3 - Jakes Rocks Trail and Kinzua Dam NCT

Hike leader: Dee McCarthy 4.0 m. Easy.

Leave Bradford at 8:30 a.m., Drive south on Rt. #219 to Rt.#770 to Rt #59 to parking area. Hike through scenic old growth trees and large boulders. View Reservoir through the leaves on hike back to parking lot. After hike, drive further west on #59 to Morrison, turn left and go to dam. Parking lot is close to dam.

C4 - Marilla Bridges to White Pine Trail to Marilla Overlook Trail

Hike leader: Kathy Boni, 5 m Easy to Moderate.

Meet on campus at 9:00 a.m. at student union and travel to parking area at Reservoir on Rt. #346. Hike around reservoir to White Pines Loop Trail to Marilla Bridge Trail and back to reservoir. View majestic old growth pine trees, mature forest, covered bridge and gazebo at the reservoir. Return to parking area.

C5 - Kayak/canoe paddle-Allegheny Reservoir Friends Boat Launch

Leader: Donna and Marty Ruszaj.

Duration 2-3 hours

Leave Bradford at 8:30, travel to Rt.#280 2.5m off I-#86 Coldspring, N.Y. 14783. Join us for a morning paddle where the Allegheny River enters the reservoir. Conditions permitting, we will cross the reservoir and explore the western shoreline. We will briefly dock for lunch. Attendees must supply all equipment and PFD is required. A local outfitter can be contacted for equipment at <https://www.alleghenyoutfitters.com/canoe-kayak-rentals/>. A secure location is available to store kayaks when not in use. Indicate on your registration form that you need a key.

Finger Lakes Trail Conference – 2019 Annual Meeting
June 7 to June 9, 2019 - Hosted by Foothills Trail Club
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, 300 Campus Drive, Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701

Schedule of Events – Registrations accepted up to May 25th!

Friday, June 7

11:00 AM	Registration Opens
11:30 to 2:00 PM	Hikes depart see schedule
5:00 PM	Social Hour
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Buffet Dinner
7:15 PM	Campfire and sand volleyball

Saturday, June 8

7:00 – 8:30 AM	Buffet Breakfast
8:15 – 9:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM	Pick up lunches
8:30 AM	Hikes depart see schedule
4:00 – 4:45 PM	Tai Chi with Robert Chua
4:00 – 4:45 PM	FLTC Annual Membership Meeting, election of officers
5:00 PM	Social Hour
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Buffet Dinner
7:30 PM	Evening presentation - Holly Dzemyan, Kinzua Bridge State Park

Sunday, June 9

7:00 – 8:30 AM	Buffet Breakfast
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Pick up lunches
8:30 AM	Check out before leaving on hikes
8:00 AM	Hikes depart see schedule
10:00 AM	FLTC Board of Managers Meeting

LODGING and MEALS

LODGING - Enjoy air-conditioned, suite style housing at University Pitt-Bradford. The suites are 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartments housing either 2 people (considered a single) or 4 people (considered a double); each includes a common kitchen and living space. When choosing a single, pick one person you would like to share the suite with. For a double choose 1 person for a roommate and another 2 people to share the suite. No Names we will pick your roommates.

Full Linen Service

Each suite has a microwave, mini refrigerator, mini sink, and dining area in the kitchen section. In the living area there is a cable TV, couch and chair.

Emergency Phone at University (814) 562-7652

MEALS - provided by the college buffet style:

Friday dinner: Herb roasted chicken, vegetable ratatouille, rice pilaf, salad bar & rolls w/butter
Dessert & beverages

Saturday Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, bacon, home fries, fruit salad, oatmeal, yogurt, toast station, pastries and beverages.

Saturday bag lunch: sandwich choice-turkey, ham or grilled veggie wrap. Fruit, cookie and drink

Saturday Dinner: Pork Loin, braised greens, roasted red potatoes, salad bar & rolls w/butter
Dessert and beverage

Sunday Breakfast: Cheddar scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, fruit salad, oatmeal, yogurt, toast station, pastries & beverages

Sunday bagged lunch: sandwich choice-turkey, ham or grilled veggie wrap. Fruit, cookie and drink

Vegetarian and gluten free and vegan options are available

Other nearby activities:

Kinzua Bridge State Park
Rimrock Overlook
Kayaking/Canoeing on the Alleghany River
Marilla Reservoir
World War II Museum
Zippo –Case Visitors Center
Penn Brad Oil Museum
Birding, fishing
Walking Tour Bradford National Historic District

Shopping – Main Street Mercantile over 70 vendors under one roof

Hotels in the area:

Holiday Inn Express (814) 362-7090

Best Western Plus-dog friendly (814) 362-4501

Comfort Inn – dog friendly (814) 368-6772

Campgrounds:

Willow Bay Campground, Morrison Campground contact www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 or Allegany State Park – Quaker side contact reserveAmerica.com

RVs can park in a lot with electric cords available and use of a dorm room for showering for \$30.00 per night.

Directions to Campus

Southbound traffic from Buffalo, Rochester, Niagara Falls, N.Y.:

- ♦ From Interstate 90, follow U.S. Route 219 South to Bradford
- ♦ Exit U.S. Route 219 at the Forman Street exit
- ♦ At the stop sign at the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto Forman Street
- ♦ At the stop sign, turn left onto Davis Street/Penna.346
- ♦ Follow Davis Street to the four-way stop and turn right onto Boylston Street
- ♦ Follow Boylston Street to the traffic light (by the Country Fair gas station) and the junction with Mechanic Street
- ♦ Continue through the traffic light on to West Washington Street (Penna. Rt. 346 West)
- ♦ Follow Route 346 West (West Washington Street) west to the second set of stone signs.
- ♦ Turn left onto campus.

Westbound traffic from Scranton, Corning, Elmira, Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton:

Take Interstate 86

- ♦ Take exit 23 onto U.S. Route 219
- ♦ At the bottom of the ramp, turn left onto Route 219 and proceed south
- ♦ Exit U.S. Route 219 at the Forman Street exit
- ♦ At the stop sign at the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto Forman Street
- ♦ At the stop sign, turn left onto Davis Street/PA-346
- ♦ Follow Davis Street to the four-way stop and turn right onto Boylston Street
- ♦ Follow Boylston Street to the traffic light (by the Country Fair gas station) and the junction with Mechanic Street
- ♦ Continue through the traffic light on to West Washington Street (PA Rt. 346 West)
- ♦ Follow Route 346 West (West Washington Street) west to the second set of stone signs.
- ♦ Turn left onto campus.



The McDowell Community Trail that passes behind campus and goes along the Tunungwant Creek.

FLTC 2019 Annual Spring Meeting – Registration Form hosted by Foothills Trail Club
June 7, 8 and 9 – Bradford, Pennsylvania

One form per person.

Register one of two ways

- 1) Hardcopy – mail form and check payable to Foothills trail Club to FLT, 105 Nadine Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14225
- 2) On-line – register and pay at www.foothillstrailclub.org

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Cell Phone # _____

City/Town _____ State _____ ZipCode _____ County _____

Emergency Contact & Phone # _____

Local Hiking Club/Affiliation _____

REGISTRATION FEE - registration deadline is May 26, 2019. No refunds after May 26, 2019

FLTC or Foothills Member _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

Non-member _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Hike Leaders _____ x \$0.00 = \$ _____

Lodging is Suite Style housing: 2 bedrooms with bathrooms, a living room and kitchenette with microwave and refrigerator.

See Lodging Description.

Friday: Single _____ x \$80.00 = \$ _____

Double: _____ x \$40.00 = \$ _____
Name of roommate Name of Suite Mate Name of Suite Mate

Saturday: Single _____ x \$80.00 = \$ _____

Double: _____ x \$40.00 = \$ _____
Name of roommate Name of Suite Mate Name of Suite Mate

MEALS:

Friday Dinner \$13.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Breakfast \$ 9.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Lunch \$ 9.00 = \$ _____

(please circle one) Ham, turkey, veggie wrap

Saturday Dinner \$13.00 = \$ _____

Sunday Breakfast \$ 9.00 = \$ _____

Sunday Lunch \$ 9.00 = \$ _____

(please circle one) Ham, turkey, veggie wrap

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Indicate any food allergies, concerns here: _____

Vegetarian _____ Gluten Free _____ Vegan _____

Please indicate choice of hikes:

Friday: _____ Saturday: _____ Sunday: _____

Free Kayak Storage - Free of Charge – Please indicate if you want to store your Kayak _____

Please read and sign the following:

Those persons enjoying the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) and/or activities sponsored by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC) or any clubs conducting activities on behalf of, or in support of the FLTC, accept full responsibility for their own well-being, or, for the well-being of a minor when acting in the capacity of parent or guardian. Further, users of the FLT accept and understand that hiking is a rigorous activity often conducted in rugged outdoor conditions subject to variations in weather and terrain conditions which may involve the risk of injury or death, and that we are fully responsible for own safety and selecting activities that are consistent with our physical capabilities.

Signature _____ Print Name _____ Date _____

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

End-to-End Report

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

No new main or branch trail end-to-enders.

Multiple Time Main Trail Hikers

23 hikers have completed the main trail **twice** (most recent listed first):

Bruce and Donna Coon, John Andersson, John Schmidt, Jeff Patterson, Gary Brouse, Larry Telle, Max Blenis, Kim and Terry Meacham, Sigi Schwinge, Teresa Blenis, Dave Newlun, Ken Reek, David Cook, Tim Wilbur, Paul and Theresa Gaeta, Roy and Laurie Dando, Michele Gonzales, Jack Vanderzee, John Sweeney Jennifer Wilson, Laurie Ondrejka, Deb Nero, Alex Gonzalez: **three** times

Frank Bianco, John A-X Morris: **four** times

Jack Sexton: **five** times

Joe Dabes: **ten** times

Updates:

Phil Cihwsky formerly from Binghamton plans to thru hike the FLT starting in June. He is retired and lives in Loveland, Colorado. Tom Market sent in his main trail update. He has completed about one third of the trail to date. Ross Creagan and Patti Owens are interested in completing the main trail.

Comments:

FLT Terminus

There will be an alternative Eastern terminus on M34 for the main FLT. **No one** will be required to use the new terminus unless they wish to do so, now on top of Slide Mt. If you have hiked M33 before December 31, 2019, you do not have to hike the new M34. The Slide Mt. trail is beautiful, challenging and interesting. You will also learn more about John Burroughs and the history of this area on this hike.

The new terminus **will be** required for those hiking M33 after December 31st, 2019. After this date you must complete M34 to qualify for your main trail end to end award. Email me if you have concerns

Car Spotter News:

New car spotter David Larrimore M12 and B3. David is also a new trail maintainer. Welcome.

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

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. IF you need a longer ride, join the yahoo group to see if someone is willing, if you do not have a friend or family member available.

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

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



Jacqui Wensich

Joe Dabes (10 times E2E) and John A.X. Morris (4 times)



Jacqui Wensich

Paul and Vicky Gaeta second time E2E



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:



Emily Flagg

PREVIOUS PHOTO:

M4 between Boyce Hill S.F. and Bear Creek State Forest

Correct answers:

David Potzler said, “This was Tony Orsini’s handiwork. He built a mile-long section of trail all by himself.”

Marty Ruszaj (his Wally Wood Spring Hike will end here in April)

Sarah Stackhouse

Barb Bailey

Kirk Doyle

Marty Howden

James Brigden

New Picture:



Ross Creagan

NEW PHOTO:

Farm Junk Art, photo by Ross Creagan 12-21-18

(Junk? I see three separate machines that may well be operable! Editor Pest)

New FLT Members

Donna Atkinson	Richmond, Va.
Karlien Bach	Rochester
Dan Bushnell	Rochester
Christopher Carlton	Hamilton
Mark Champlin	Bainbridge
Andrew Converse	Dryden
Michael Daly	Manlius
David DeMity	Wayland
Deborah Denome	Naples
James Devona	Binghamton
Caralea Dougherty	Truxton
Emily Flagg	Pittsford
Shelly Florence-Glover	Canisteo
Tom Harvey	Vestal
Genesee Valley Hiking Club	Penfield

Robert & Carol Kahabka	Woodhull
Vaughn Langless	Rochester
Jill McConnell	Johnson City
Michelle Newhart	Rochester
Alida Merrill	Rochester
Stephanie Nary	Rochester
Glenn & Patti Owens	Rochester
Debra Ruski	Sherburne
Ken Schaible	Pittsford
Robert Schooley	Rushford
Karl Schwesinger	Elmira
Myra Shulman	Ithaca
Alfred G Warner	Erie, Pa.
David & Beverly Welch	Avoca
Denise Wellin	Churchville
Andrew Wieland	Lancaster

Finger Lakes Trail 2019 Calendar of Events

March 9	Board meeting, Humphrey Nature Center, Letchworth St. Park
March 18	Trails Advocacy Day, Albany. NYS Trail Legislative Working Group
April 27	Wally Wood Hike
April 28 - May 1	International Trails Symposium in Syracuse
May 1	Deadline, <i>FLT News</i>
May 11	Board meeting, Dorman Library, Bath
June 7-9	Spring Weekend, University of Pittsburgh, Bradford, Pa. Campus
June 9	Board Meeting
July 26-28	Finger Lakes Trail Days in Bath
July 28	Board Meeting, Bath
September 22	Fall Weekend, hosted by Bullthistle Hiking Club, in conjunction with final Chenango County Hike; Board meeting included

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VACANT

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Mark and his friends most often run the trail, which he did last year. He stopped to watch another runner visit with roadside horses on Liberty Pole Rd. on the Crystal Hills Trail, Map CH3. Photo by Mark Valites

