

# Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Summer 2019



## *Inside...*

- \* *Fall Campout Program and Hikes*
- \* *New Easements*
- \* *Walking the Superior Hiking Trail*



# Summer 2019



## *Mission Statement*

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

## FINGER LAKES TRAIL NEWS

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**COVER:** Here's hoping we get mountain laurel blooming during our spring weekend in Pennsylvania. Photo by Vinnie Collins

**THIS PAGE:** A closeup of mountain laurel. Photo by Vinnie Collins



# President's Message

## Pat Monahan

One of my responsibilities with the FLT is trail maintainer. I am responsible for a ¾ mile spur trail to the Crystal Hills Trail in Meads Creek State Forest. This spring, I invited (again) a friend to help me with some sawyer work on my section. He commented that most of the time that he has helped me with trail maintenance, it has involved being the swamper (helper) to the sawyer on my section of the trail. He is right. I suspect in the near future, there will be more sawyer work across the trail system as a result of the emerald ash borer beetle that has attacked our forests.

Now, back to my comments as President of the Board. First, we are at the end of the term for the Class of 2019 Board of Managers members. I would like to thank Roger Hopkins, Tim Sweeney and David Tuttle for completing their service on the Board. They have been instrumental in moving the FLT forward. At the annual meeting on June 8, 2019, the membership overwhelmingly supported the Class of 2022 including Peg Fuller, Scott Geiger, Roger Hopkins, Tim Sweeney and Peter Wybron. Thank you for sharing your leadership skills with the FLT.

Second, the Board is currently recruiting two positions that are key to our well-being as an organization. We are looking for a Vice President of Finance who oversees the financial health of the FLT. This person must understand finances at a high level and run the monthly Finance Committee. We are also looking for a Vice President of Trail Maintenance. This person oversees all aspects of the trail with the assistance of many others. Both of these positions require leadership skills to oversee their respective areas of responsibility. If you or someone you know might be interested in either of these positions, please contact me by calling the office at (585) 658-9320 or sending me an e-mail at pmonahan@stny.rr.com.

I reported at the annual meeting and in my president's column here that the Board has been engaged in a strategic planning process throughout the winter/spring to help move the FLT into the future. It has been an intense study focused on what we can strategically do to move the FLT forward. The Board accepted the strategic plan at its May 11, 2019, regular meeting. We will not lose our roots from the last 56 years. Rather we will build on them and expend our energies to grow the organization by paying careful attention to all users of our trail. This will require more than volunteers to accomplish this plan. In the first few years, we will hire someone to research the feasibility of the plan (year one), hire a sales/communication professional (year two), hire a part time trails person (year two/three) and increase collaborations and partnerships with like-minded organizations to help increase revenue flow. All of this requires a refreshed mission

statement for membership approval in 2020. This is just a very short report that represents hundreds of hours of work by the Board. In my next and future columns, I will discuss the plan in more detail including some of the strategic plans for four specific areas. I encourage you to attend any of the Board meetings to follow closely the plan's implementation.

Finally, our annual membership drive has been underway since April. Some of you are early birds and have been a member for the last couple months and some of you will get to it soon. We appreciate your support as a member as well as your generous donations. Our annual budget is developed mainly from memberships and donations on the revenue side. Thank you for returning to the FLT. If this is your first year, welcome aboard. I hope you see the value of the FLT to continue in the following years. For those of you reading this as a potential new member, please take the next step not only out on the trail but also to become a member.

For those of you who are new to my column (and regulars too), take the next step as members/donors and

**"Go take a hike!!" 🍁**



Larry Blumberg

### 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		

# John Schmitt on the NCT

*John Schmitt*

*This is New Yorker John's report to the Long Distance Hiking Committee of the North Country Trail Association, so that he could claim a number of embroidered patches for whole states hiked. Editor*

I have procrastinated for a long time. I had a rough, handwritten draft over six years ago as I was travelling to St. Joseph, Missouri, for work. At that time, I had completed most of New York and all of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Since then I have completed Wisconsin and North Dakota, most of Lower Michigan and significant portions of Minnesota and upper Michigan with a total of approximately 3800 miles completed.

My love for hiking really developed in the mid 1970s in the Adirondacks and hills of New York's southern tier including early segments of the Finger Lakes Trail. I also took several hiking trips to the Rocky Mountains. After completing the Adirondack 46 high peaks, a lull of several years occurred in serious hiking. On a late winter hike in 1998 on the Bristol Hills Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail, a fellow hiker from the Genesee Valley Hiking Club mentioned that I would really enjoy a series of "longer/faster" hikes on the main Finger Lakes Trail led by a member of the Foothills Trail Club. I joined the group. Despite the rain on my first three hikes (they were ready to uninvite me as there had not been rain previously), I got the bug and hiked with them regularly. Hiking the entire Finger Lakes Trail looked like it could be done. With a lot of the "longer/faster" group hikes, hikes with the Genesee Valley Chapter of the ADK, and Foothills Trail Club and hikes on my own, I finished the main Finger Lakes Trail in 1999. I did not know at the time that much of the Finger Lakes Trail is also part of the North Country Trail.

In 1999 along with a few hiking friends, I also started to hike the Appalachian Trail. The trail was mainly hiked as day hikes with a few long weekend backpacks. I finished the AT with a weeklong back pack trip to Mount Katadin in 2006. The Long Path in eastern N.Y. was completed in 2009/2010. In 2010, I also completed the 29-mile Taconic Crest Trail, east of the Hudson River, with its approximately 10,000 feet cumulative elevation gain. I considered but could not participate in the first Allegheny 100 Challenge in 2010 due to work commitments.

To prepare for the 2011 Allegheny 100 Challenge, I started taking long hikes on the NCT in central New York north of the Finger Lakes Trail to the Adirondacks. I was able to hike about 80 miles of the Allegheny 100 Challenge in 2011. To be better prepared for the 2012 (and 2013) A100s, I more aggressively hiked on the NCT in Pennsylvania and Ohio for training. My wife, Marge, or daughter, Diane, spotted me on those hikes. I did successfully complete the 100 miles within the time limit for both the 2012 and 2013 A100s.

Even though I have not participated in the Allegheny 100 since 2013 (maybe next year), I have continued to hike on the NCT for enjoyment and wanting to see what else the trail has to offer. Being closer and farther south, I was able to hike in Ohio during all



*John in the forests of northern Wisconsin in the Brule State Park. Picture taken by his driver.*

seasons although it seemed Ohio received most of its snow just before weekends that I hiked. Temperatures ranged from below 0° F to over 100° F. By the end of May 2014, I had completed the NCT in Ohio.

During the remainder of 2014, 2015, and 2016, I hiked all Lower Michigan except the northernmost 20 miles on many long weekends where again Marge provided a shuttle to many remote locations. I also hiked from Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore to Tahquamenon Falls State Park in the upper peninsula of Michigan. I was also able to take advantage of several weekends during 2014 and 2015 when I was traveling to Madison, Wisconsin, for work, to hike the NCT across Wisconsin. These were a combination of day hikes and overnight backpacking trips. I use a combination of in/outs, shuttle by local NCTA Chapter members, a shuttle service and a taxi company. (While in Madison, I also hiked about 200 miles of the Ice Age Trail mostly in the evenings after work.)

2017 was disappointing as far as new NCT trail went. Due to the distance from home and other obligations/activities, I was not able to do any new NCT segments. However, 2017 was far from a dismal year. I completed the Finger Lakes Trail for the second time after participating for nine years in the FLT County Series hikes. Other highlights included a cruise to Alaska with Marge, a climb with Diane up Mount Kilimanjaro, and hiking with the Appalachian Mountain Club in New Zealand.



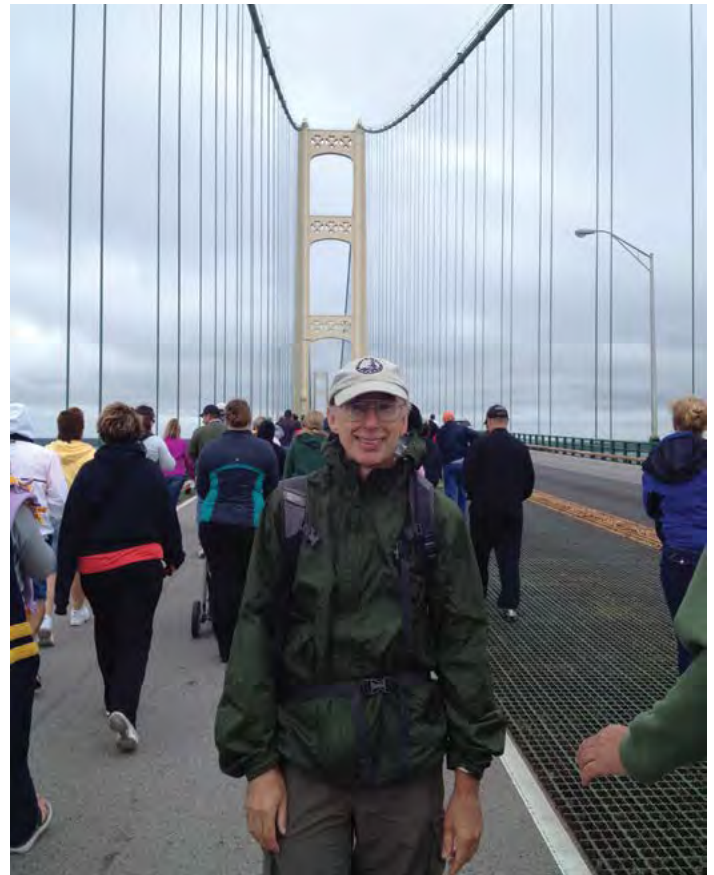
I retired from full time work in early 2018. This has given me more time for my varied interests. From late April through mid-May, I backpacked 350 miles from Frazee to Ely, Minnesota, on the NCT. The weather was much hotter than I expected (high 80s). Late July through mid-August saw me backpacking from the NCT western terminus at Lake Sakakawea approximately 530 miles to Frazee, Minn. It was very hot as I expected, but I could not pass up a shuttle ride offered by my brother on his way to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Diane and I also had the opportunity in November to take a trek to the Mount Everest Base Camp.

There have been many highlights to the NCT hiking, a few of which follow: beautiful scenery in every region, being surrounded by a herd of cattle, many sections of very well maintained trail, views of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior, support by many NCTA Chapter members, friendly local people, long views especially in North Dakota, short views at night, wildlife especially the beaver in Minnesota, hiking on snow covered seasonal roads in Ohio, having the time to see the country at a slow pace, and being able to hike the next day after being bitten by a dog.

There are also some low lights, but good for conversation. These included being bitten by a dog with a subsequent trip to the emergency room, a partial cup of milk shake thrown at me on a very cold windy day from a passing car, a cup of pop thrown at Diane and me on another cold rainy day from a passing car, very overgrown trail conditions in the Wayne National Forest in southeast Ohio (I believe that this has since been rectified), hiking to Rome, N.Y., at the rainy edge of Hurricane Irene, and a recent trail reroute to a different road crossing where I had only sporadic cell phone service to let my wife know the new pick-up point.

The NCT has given me an opportunity to see a wide part of the north central region of the country. This article is only a slight glimpse of the experiences that I have had so far hiking the NCT. I look forward to hiking the remaining segments of the NCT during 2019 and possibly 2020. I also hope I can revisit these areas with Marge in the future to see the many unique visitor attractions that were off the trail. 🍁

*Waterfalls within Pattison Falls State Park in Wisconsin.*



Marge Schmitt

*The five-mile bridge across the straits between upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan is open to pedestrians only one day per year, on Labor Day. So John walked that bridge to keep his NCT miles continuous.*



John Schmitt

# Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright

Happy 2019! This year promises to be a very exciting year as much is happening that is traditional, updated or brand new.

I want to thank the people who have been working so hard for the activities that you might expect to see:

- The Trail Maintenance Team has begun the silent and often unrecognized task of maintaining the awesome Finger Lakes Trail.
- The Board of Managers, administrative volunteers and staff continue to work endless hours keeping the organization functioning as efficiently as possible.
- The Chenango County Hike Series began in April thanks to the hard work of Donna Coon and her team.
- The upcoming annual General Membership weekend is being held at the University of Pittsburgh Bradford Campus in June under the direction of Claudia Lawler and Donna Flood and their team.
- The upcoming annual Fall Conference in Norwich will be in September under the leadership of Peg Fuller and her Bullthistle team.

The Board of Managers, after many hours of exhaustive work, is nearly finished updating a new Strategic Plan which will guide the Finger Lakes Trail into the future. It has been my privilege to have worked in support of their efforts.

I want to thank the people who have been working tirelessly on new activities to expand the public awareness of the Finger Lakes Trail:

- The International Trails Symposium will have concluded by the time you receive this edition of the magazine. It will have been a rousing success because of the work of so many people.
  1. Mike Schlicht and his team of volunteers headed by lean-to designers Matt Branneman and Rob Hughes will have constructed two lean-tos off site and then re-erected them at the OnCenter in Syracuse.
  2. At the Symposium Matt and Rob will have made a presentation about how to build their lean-tos.
  3. Deb Nero will have managed the unenviable task of coordinating all of the volunteers for the Symposium which has about 1000 attendees from across the State, the USA and 13 countries.
  4. A payback for the FLTC's involvement is that the FLTC is receiving a donation of a 50" X 8' boardwalk to be used on the trail (a value of \$5000) and another donation of a 24" X 42" trailside information board about some of the birds that can be found in the Bock-Harvey Preserve. AND the Finger Lakes Trail will be a trail



Karen Wright

*Quinn and Blizzard.*

recognized and remembered by those who attended or planned the Symposium.

- Finger Lakes Trail Days which is being planned and hosted by the Corning and Southern Finger Lakes Visitor Bureau in Bath. Debbie Nero, Anna Keeton and Dave Newlun have invested a huge amount of time and deserve a great deal of appreciation. I know they are still looking for volunteers to help.
- A team of DEC certified guides will have led a group of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scouts on their first backpacking experience
- Jamestown Advanced Products, one of our business partners and the supplier of our lean-to fire rings, paid for our booth space at the Symposium. As a business member of the FLTC they are entitled to an ad in our *FLT News* magazine. Any business member is entitled to ad space and to my knowledge Jamestown Advanced Products is the first to utilize that benefit of their membership in the FLTC family. If you are looking for outdoor yard equipment please consider them. 🍁

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716-826-1939



# A Legend of the Old Tioughnioga

Virgil Town Historian

*Mike TenKate shared this story from the Virgil Historical Bulletin, and town clerk Alane Van Donsel gave us permission to use it. To us hikers the Tioughnioga River is a major obstacle, with the two bridges a good six miles apart, but we've never heard of any hiker trying to swim it instead of walking around. Our trail route used to cross at Blodgett Mills, but now enjoys a more pleasant walk to cross the river at the southern bridge on Map M20. Editor*

## A LEGEND OF THE OLD TIOUGHNIOGA

(Newspaper clipping, 1927, written by the Virgil Town Historian)

While looking over some old copies of the "Cortland County Express" on Tuesday we came across the following marriage notice: "In Virgil, NY, Jan. 24, 1850, by Rev. N. Mosher, Joel Stanton and Miss Mary Parker, all of the above place."

This notice awakened a train of memories of stories and events that occurred before our birth, but while our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parker, lived some two and a half miles below Blodgett Mills on the west side of the river. Then, as today, there was no way of crossing the Tioughnioga River at that particular point except by boat, there being no bridges from Blodgett Mills to Messengerville. {just like now. Editor}

On the west side of the river there was the Parker settlement, two brothers, Calvin and William Parker, who were natives of Coventry, Rhode Island, and who there had married two sisters, Mary and Eliza Clark. Calvin Parker was our grandfather, and when his son, Charles married Huldah Haynes, (sister of N. H. Haynes, for a number of year sheriff and deputy sheriff of Cortland County) the third house was built, and was their home.

William Parker had quite a large family, and his daughter, Mary, was married to Joel Stanton from across the river where he had lived with his mother, who had been left a widow by the tragic death of her husband who had been accidentally poisoned. Joel, from all account we heard in our childhood, was a fine, bonnie laddie, well liked by everybody; and after his marriage he made his home on the west side of the river, often poling his boat across to visit his mother on the other side.

On Dec 24, a year after his marriage, he crossed the river in his boat accompanied by his father-in-law, William Parker, and his brother-in-law, Henry Dermander, we believe. It was bitter cold, and ice was running in the river, and on the return trip, when about half way across, the boat capsized. Mr. Parker and Mr. Dermander escaped by clinging to the boat until someone came to their assistance, but Joel Stanton's body had disappeared, and, although search was continually made, and every known means of raising the body from the water was tried, it could not be found, and of course the case was talked of far and near, but especially along the river where the accident occurred.

Two weeks after the accident our mother awakened our father in the night, crying, "Charles, wake up! Go and get the neighbors and bring Joel Stanton's body home." Thinking she had brooded so long on the subject that she was having a nightmare over it, he tried to soothe her, reminding her of their long and fruitless search, but she told him the body was just two miles down the river, caught in an eel rack, that Joel had just come and stood by her bed and told her so. Fearing for her reason, Father roused the Parker settlement, sent some of the women to stay with Mother, and with their tin lanterns with candles inside, the procession marched down the river to the designated spot, where they found Joel Stanton's body caught fast in an eel rack, and sorrowfully bore it home. 🍁

*The frozen Tioughnioga, youtube post by John Calvin, Jan 2018*



# The Value of Community

By Mike Schlict, including pictures except where noted otherwise, *Director of Crews and Construction*

Many of us are familiar with the adage that it takes a village to raise a child but a village is nothing more than a group of people sharing norms, religion, values or communities that bring people together. Within communities, while we all have something in common that bring us together, we are still unique in that we can have different interests, talents, jobs, and hobbies. In a course on self-expression and leadership I took years ago and more recently coached, you learn that without community, nothing is possible.

I've had some time to reflect on the activities that brought our community together in early April to start construction of two lean-tos at Mike TenKate's house, only to take them down the next day and reconstruct them a few weeks later in Syracuse, only to take them down again, and what it will take finally to construct them for the last time at their permanent locations on the trail is quite amazing. We have an awe-inspiring and talented group of people within the FLTC and relationships with many others without whom we could not have accomplished what we did at the Internationals Trails Symposium at the OnCenter in Syracuse. We introduced our trail system to hundreds of people from around the country and displayed several lean-tos that hikers will have an opportunity to stay in along the way.

Let's look at all the steps involved that made this process possible. First, we have a vendor in end-to-end Mahlon Hurst who supplies much of the wood we use to construct lean-tos and other structures and does so at a very reasonable price. He also delivers those materials to us which he did to Mike TenKate's house in early April. In addition, there is a vendor from whom we tend to purchase the metal roof panels for our shelters so Mahlon also picked them up for us at no additional charge.

Next, we had Mike TenKate who was the project manager of this event, his wife Julie, and his mother Nancy who graciously allowed us to store these materials and use their property to construct

the Bucks Brook lean-to and base of the Little Rock City lean-to on what turned out to be the best weekend weather-wise that we would see for the next month. Julie and Nancy provided breakfast, lunch and dinner for those two days to the crew of volunteers who assisted that weekend. Mike's mom also supplied the tractor that was used to unload the wood from Mahlon and that was used during the construction weekend to load materials destined for other projects around the state (sorry, Mike, we all saw how much you enjoyed driving the tractor, but it IS hers). Matt Branneman, the construction manager for the project, brought his van full of tools that was a small Home Depot on wheels in itself. Matt's expertise and knowledge of construction techniques was put to the test designing two different bases for two different lean-tos in addition to aiding in the redesign of the privy screen for ADA compliance. Over the two days in Virgil, we had over a dozen different volunteers and even one young woman who saw the project listed on the FLTC Facebook page and joined us on Sunday. She happens to be an Assistant District Attorney from a nearby county and at first was hesitant to use the construction tools on hand, but with some helpful coaching and encouragement from Matt and others, she gave them a try and never looked back.



▲ View of Rob Hughes' artful timber frame

◆ Mike TenKate's mother's tractor, doing yeoman work for our projects!



One of the vendors who made the Symposium possible for us was Jamestown Metal Products, who make recreational products like picnic tables, bike racks, benches, grilles, and fire rings. They graciously paid for the space that was used to display the two lean-tos of which they used one to showcase their products and we used the other to raise the awareness of our



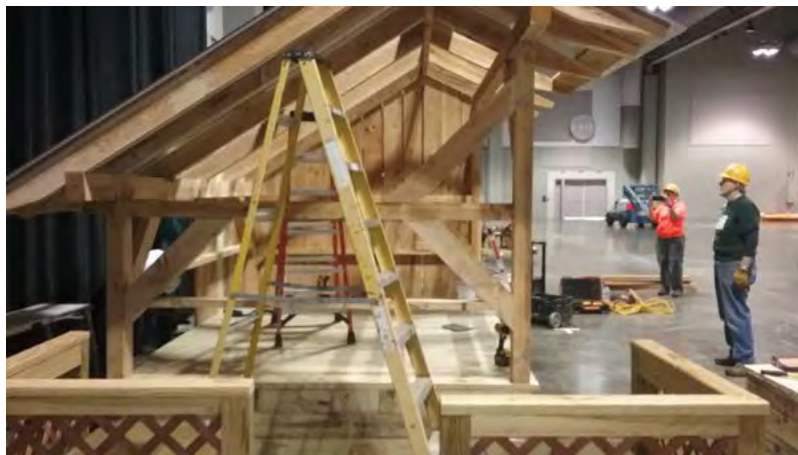
trail system. In addition, they also brought along the fire ring we ordered for the Bucks Brook lean-to.

I cannot speak highly enough of Candace Gallagher who was our contact from American Trails that hosted the Symposium and was our point of contact for the OnCenter. Her ability to stay composed and field all the questions and concerns and identify solutions for us when I and many others were emailing her practically daily was impressive. She was able to work with OnCenter personnel to allow us to drive our trailers into the convention center to unload and construct the lean-tos before anyone else arrived for the Symposium. Likewise, she was able to secure the permissions to allow all four trailers that were necessary to load the lean-to materials and boardwalk once the



*These are the framing beams for Rob Hughes' delightful design, still missing the front rafters. Each board is sanded smooth, with peg holes already there, angled cuts done. Like Mike said, it's a work of art.*

compressed under the legs of the frame you begin leveling the boardwalk. This part will take some time using pins and shovels to get it right, but the footprint of the footer was designed so it would be unlikely that we will have to check the levelness and adjust it for some time to come.



Finally, but most important, none of the activities that took place at the OnCenter would have been possible without our FLTC volunteers. Their flexibility to adjust to two significant changes in the OnCenter schedule that altered the initial delivery date and setup of the lean-tos and time when we were allowed to bring in the trailers to haul everything out made a huge difference in making this endeavor the success it was. It was also great to see our FLTC volunteers assist others at the OnCenter with their setup/take down, especially the crew with the steel bridge display. This crew had a very challenging three days of setup with their display and our crew was only too helpful when it came to put down and remove the four hundred pound panels that made up the deck of the bridge.

OnCenter had cleared out a bit as vendors were packing up and heading home.

One cannot say enough about the dedication to details and talents that Rob Hughes has as we saw the Little Rock City lean-to come to life at the OnCenter. One really has to see this lean-to in person and inspect the intricate detail that was necessary to design the beams that make up this frame. This frame is nothing short of a work of art. It is hard to state in words the beautiful joinery that Rob used in designing, sanding smooth, and sawing the beams. Every piece fits together and then gets a peg through each joint. So the next time you are in the Salamanca area, take a moment to stop by and see it for yourself on the trail.

Many of us also got to meet Patrick Walters and Naomi Bloomer from Wickcraft who donated the boardwalk to us at the Symposium. They are two of the nicest folks to work with and provided a lot of insight as to the placement and installation of the boardwalk at the OnCenter and how to install it in the field. The design is



Irene Szabo

*continued on next page...*





As I stated in the beginning of the article, it is only with community that things are possible. Look back and reflect on all the different pieces, parts, and people who made it possible to construct, move, remove and place these two lean-tos and boardwalk in their upcoming permanent homes for our hikers to enjoy for decades to come. Without you and our partners, we would not be where we are today and where we will be going tomorrow. 🍁

*Hughes timber framed project from the front.*



*Dave Potzler,  
Roger Hopkins,  
Rob Hughes,  
Michael Loftus,  
Tony Rodriguez,  
Nigel Dyson-Hudson,  
and Mike Ogden*



*Matt Branneman and Rob Hughes, our two best designers and craftsmen, conducted this seminar one day at the Trails Symposium, using the two shelter frames on display to explain their different designs.*

Roger Hopkins

Volunteers who created our display shelter frames:  
Thane Bilodeau  
Scott Bowen  
Matt Branneman  
Gary Bustos  
Jenine Cleary  
Joseph Cleary  
Peter Dady  
Frank Delzer  
Nigel Dyson-Hudson  
David Grant  
Richard Harper  
Roger Hopkins  
Rob Hughes  
Deb Nero  
Dave Newman  
Mike Ogden  
Edward O'Shea  
Dave Potzler  
Tony Rodriguez  
Mike Schlicht  
Annie Sorrell  
Alyx Stanczak  
Julie TenKate  
Mike TenKate  
John Varmnaop  
Peter Wybron

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# New Easement, New Trail, New Steward

Mary Coffin

For several years ADK-Onondaga has spent time and energy building new trails between Route 41 and Baker School House State Forest on Map M20 only to lose the trail to new landowners when unprotected land was sold or inherited. So our next step was to obtain an easement first then build protected trail. We now have an easement with the Bickford Trust which will allow trail between the state forest and Route 41 in Solon.

The opportunity came one day when we received a call from recent end-to-end Thane Bilodeau. Thane grew up in the Solon area and knew the woods as well as the landowners and his experience as an end-to-end prompted him to contact us to consider this off-road option. He helped us obtain landowner permission to scout this hillside where he played as a child. Pete Dady, the new Regional Trail Coordinator for M20, Thane and I scouted and roughed out a suitable route to connect Route 41 and existing trail in the state forest.

Thane introduced us to the landowners, whom he has known since childhood, and I was able to negotiate a mutual right of way for the trail within a Trail Access Easement. During the summer of 2019 Pete and I will flag a maximum 10% grade and sustainable route for the trail and apply for a DEC foot bridge permit to cross the protected stream, Trout Brook. In 2020, we will apply for an Alley Cat project to bench the trail and build the foot bridge. The co-trustees (one is a landscape architect) were impressed with the North Country Trail design criteria so we will do our best to employ these during construction. The icing on the cake is that Thane has volunteered to be the trail steward and assist with future off road trail in the area. Recapturing the Mt. Tego trail might be next.

When I sent a note of appreciation to Mary Bickford and Cindy Bickford Teter, co-trustees, for their generosity in the donation of this easement they replied, "We are glad to be able to support your organization in this small way." I say this is a BIG way. The new trail will replace 7 miles of road walk.



Mary Coffin

*Peter Dady, Mary Bickford, Cindy Bickford Teter, and Thane Bilodeau.*

My thanks go to the Bickfords, Thane Bilodeau and Pete Dady each for their roles in supporting the FLTC goal of protected trail forever. 🍁

## 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](http://northcountrytrail.org)

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# A Naturalist's View

Text by D. Randy Weidner, Photos by Craig Braack, retired Allegany County Historian

At the latitude of our Finger Lakes Trail, the longer hours of sunlight and the warmth of summer brings forth the full expression of the natural world. Fully-leaved deciduous trees are churning factories of photosynthesis, augmented by a multitude of herbaceous plants. Fruits and seeds are the output of this botanical industry. Surpluses in the carbohydrates they produce are shuttled to mycorrhizal fungi which in turn generate mushrooms. The abundance of these primary producers supports a diversity of animal life, ranging from microscopic forms in the soil, to mammals the size of bears. To an observant naturalist, the possibilities of where to turn your attention are overwhelming.

While large vertebrate animals, more readily observable and exhibiting interesting behaviors, attract the most attention for many people, we can never forget that far and away, the animal world is dominated by arthropods. These are creatures very unlike ourselves. Their bodies are segmented, their skeletons are external, their eyes have compound lenses, and many undergo radical changes in their body plan over their lifetime. And of these arthropods, the majority are insects. Worldwide, there may be as many as 6-10 million species of insect, representing 90% of all described lifeforms. Insects are currently classified into 29 orders, major divisions of type. The names of 22 of these orders end in “-ptera” (eg. *Lepidoptera*, butterflies and moths), Greek for “wing,” emphasizing that most insects can fly. So it is thus that we encounter them on our hikes, small flying animals.



Male Eastern Pondhawk dragonfly

As you wander the Finger Lakes Trail you invariably come to water sources, ranging from small seeps and creeks to large lakes. Here you may well encounter a subset of insects referred to as “aquatic,” by virtue of spending at least part of their life-cycle living in water. Very often, the aquatic form of an insect is the egg and larval (or nymphal) stage. These early forms ultimately give rise to winged adults such as mayflies (*Ephemeroptera*), stoneflies (*Plecoptera*), and caddisflies (*Trichoptera*). Some true flies (*Diptera*) also get their start in water as well, and some beetles (*Coleoptera*) and bugs (*Hemiptera*) live their entire lives in water. But there is one other genus that starts as an aquatic insect, taking flight as an adult, easily observed, beautiful and interesting, and

despite flying expertly, is not a ‘-ptera’. This would be the dragonflies and damselflies of the order *Odonata*.

Odonates, or “odes” for short, were named from the Greek word for “tooth.” While it is true that their mandibles (insect jaws), have irregular edges like teeth, so do many other insects, some of which bite much harder than any ode. And as stated above, odes not only fly, but they are the premier aerialists of the animal world. Odes can hover in place, fly upside-down, go forward, backward, and sideways, rise up and dive down, and turn on a pinhead. They accomplish these feats by independent control of their four wings. In truth, perhaps their genus should be *Kalyteroptera*, Greek for “best wings.” Pardon my digression; I realize there is precedence for the earliest given names in such matters.



Canada Whiteface dragonfly

There are two basic divisions among the *Odonata* recognized in most field guides: *Anisoptera* (from the Greek, implying the forewings and hindwings appear different) commonly called dragonflies, and *Zygoptera* (also Greek, implying both sets of wings appear the same) which are the damselflies. Before you get frustrated by this minutia, let me simplify the differences. Dragonflies are generally thicker-bodied, larger overall, and most importantly, rest with their wings spread out to the side like an airplane. Damselflies are delicate, thin-bodied insects that rest with their wings folded up over their abdomens, or only slightly spread apart in a “V” formation.

Odes all begin life as eggs in water or on aquatic vegetation. Eggs hatch into nymphs, segmented, six-legged forms with relatively large jaws that are able to rapidly extend and retract to capture prey. Odes are predatory at all stages of their life-cycle. Dragonfly nymphs are thicker and their gills emerge from between



Marsh Bluet damselflies in tandem, female ovipositing



body segments; while damselfly nymphs are more delicate and have leaf-like gills extending from the end of their abdomen. Nymphs may develop into an adult in one year, but some require several years in this form before metamorphosis. When the time is right, the nymph crawls out of the water on emerging vegetation, the dorsal aspect of their skeleton splits open, and the winged adult slowly pulls itself out of the old larval skeleton (exuvium), which is left clinging to the plant on which they emerged. Newly emerged adults (teneral) pump body fluids into their wing veins, expanding them to full size, and wait to dry out and mature internally, then take flight. These tenerals require a few days to acquire the colors and markings of an adult ode.

Some adult odes fly around the pond edges, rivers, or whatever water source in which they were born; others range out through woods and over fields in search of insect prey. They are responsible for eating large numbers of small flies like mosquitoes, but any arthropod smaller than themselves is fair game, including another ode.



*Male Slender Spreadwing damselfly*

Dragonflies have been found to employ three distinct hunting strategies, depending on species. Some cruise around in aerial pursuit of prey like fighter planes in a dogfight. Others sit on aquatic vegetation and wait, flying out to nab passing prey, much like avian flycatchers. The last group hovers along the vegetation, picking off prey, feeding much like a gleaner warbler. Another interesting behavior easy to observe is “obelisking,” in which a resting ode elevates its abdomen, sticking it up

awkwardly, possibly to thermoregulate. Overnight, odes rest on vegetation, many large dragonflies hanging upside down on a tree trunk. These adult forms will die come cold weather, but more and more we find species that migrate south like birds. Odes exhibit a fascinating and unique mating behavior that is often easy to observe. Males bend their tails under their bodies and insert packets of sperm into a secondary reproductive organ located where their thorax meets their abdomen. They fly around and find a prospective mate, grasping her behind her head with claspers on the end of his tail. The two insects fly around in tandem for some time while she decides if he is the one for her. If she accepts him, she flexes her tail under her body and against his secondary reproductive structure. The male inserts an organ to



*Male Twelve-spotted Skimmer dragonfly*

into the water they fly over, dimpling the surface.

Catching odes is very challenging, especially large dragonflies. They are extremely fast and agile. You will need a long-handled insect net, and you have to swing fast, preferably from behind, to get one. When you do, you are in for a treat. The proper way to handle an ode is to fold the wings up over the body, pinched gently between your thumb and forefinger, pulling slowly until they relax their grip on the net. Odes do not sting, but will try to bite. However, these

bites are imperceptible as their jaws are too small to get much skin. From some large dragonflies, I have felt the bite as a tiny pinch on my thumb-forefinger web. In hand you can appreciate the beautiful, subtle markings and colors that help distinguish species. A 10X hand lens reveals all the anatomy including leg spines. Without capturing them, close-focus binoculars used much like for butterflies, reveal many features.

If this piques your interest and you want to learn more, I recommend the following field guides: *Dragonflies Through Binoculars – A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America* by Sidney Dunkle, *Damselflies of the Northeast* by Ed Lam, or the comprehensive *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East* by Dennis Paulson. Identifying dragonflies to species, relying on distribution maps and habitat, is doable, but some groups are challenging. Identifying damselflies is often really tough, even with the specimen in hand, requiring close examination of the reproductive structures on the last abdominal segment. Admiring these summer insects where you find them and watching their mesmerizing activity is fun for all. This summer, take some time to watch some odes. You will not be disappointed. 🍁

scrape out any other male’s sperm packet she may have accepted, and inserts his own. When seen in this behavior, which occurs on the wing or at rest, they are referred to as being in the “wheel” or “heart” formation, because the whole thing resembles those shapes. The male may then release the female, or stay with her in tandem flight until he is assured she deposits his fertilized eggs in the water or on an aquatic plant. Ovipositing females are often seen dipping their abdomens



*White-faced Meadowhawk dragonflies in mating wheel position*



# End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator

## New Main:

#453 Mike Ogden, Syracuse

#454 Jack Sexton, Vestal (204,334,369,385,433) 6th time

## Updates:

Isaac Hutton of Rochester wants to run the main trail.

Others planning a thru hike are Luke Weglarz, Charles Deck, Phil Ptak and Emma Brown-Shaklee who plans either to thru hike or complete several long backpacking hikes. Beth Erviti of Wendell, Mass., plans to hike the trail in two long hikes.

Julie Chapman plans to complete the main trail this year at the September County Hike Series. Russell Noll, Beverly Feindt, Mary Lu and Philip McPherson, Jon Burnham and several others plan to do the same. Brent Houston is making great progress on his main trail hike through the county hike series and hikes with friends. Dave and Laurel Newman will finish at next years' county hike series. (I plan to finish my second end to end some time this summer.)

Steve Randell is resuming his main trail hike and Beth Neon is beginning her desire to complete the trail, planning to do some backpacking.

Mark Purcell of Penna. plans to backpack a long section in the Hammondsport area.

Tom McGraw is restarting his main trail hike with 3-4 day backpacking trips. See his photos on Facebook.

Victoria Woodcock Andruczyk (a Girl Scout volunteer) plans to hike the main trail.

#28 Tim Bloom completed the main trail in 1994 with his teenage son Jed. (#29 son Jed Bloom at age 13, the first teen to complete the main trail). Tim is starting to officially hike the main trail again. His son Jed (now age 39) still speaks highly of their main trail hike.

Bud Gearhart and his wife are gradually completing the branch trails and appreciate the car spotters.

## Comments:

Occasionally a hiker will request a copy of the (now defunct) thru hiker manual developed and updated for many years by Joe Dabes (10-time e2er). This is no longer offered because Joe no longer hikes back and forth almost every year to update such a manual. Also, the back of each map is very detailed and offer much information for the hiker. Joining the contact group through the website, asking for the car spotter list ([jwensich@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jwensich@rochester.rr.com)), checking the trail conditions and acquiring the new maps are the best advice I can give to potential thru hikers (and day hikers).

## 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 on top of Slide Mt. at this time. If you have hiked M33 before December 31, 2019, you do not have to hike the new M34. The new terminus **will be** required for those hiking M33 after December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. After this date you must complete M34 to qualify for your main trail end to end award. Email me if you have questions. 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.

## Car Spotter News:

Deb Nero added the Crystal Hill Branch Trail to her M15-20 car spotter responsibilities. THANKS!! We *always* need more car spotters for the Branch Trails and M1-4, M27-34. Please consider signing on as a car spotter. Just email at [jwensich@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jwensich@rochester.rr.com) for the application. You are a vital part of hiking our trails.

Active CTC/FLT members and end to enders #383 Anna Keeton and #384 Bodhi Rogers are no longer car spotters as they are moving to Colorado. They will be missed.

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

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

Contact: Jacqui Wensich  
[jwensich@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jwensich@rochester.rr.com)  
585/385-2265





Jacqui Weisich

## JACK SEXTON #454

Multiple end-to-end Jack Sexton, who has always informed me that this one is the last one he will complete, just sent in his SIXTH end to end application. Keep in mind he is also a grid\* member of the 3500 club.

“This is it. 6 E2E and 1 Branch Trail is enough. As Roberto Duran said, “No Mas. No Mas.” Triple City Hiking Club’s Dorel Homentcovsci joined me about one third of the time. I will be back on the FLT from time to time, but I will not be running a mileage record. I will be going back to the Catskills where I have hiked the 35 Peaks umpteen times having completed “The Grid” in 2013.

Happy Hiking  
Jack Sexton

\*Grid is defined as hiking all of the Catskill Mountains (above 3500 feet), throughout the 12 months of the year. Jack did his first 3500 in 2002, then did them all in the winter of 2008. He then did a “grid” which means he climbed all 35 peaks every month for a year = 420 peaks. Refer to the website if you wish to have more information: [www.catskill-3500-club.org/](http://www.catskill-3500-club.org/) He dedicated this accomplishment to his wife of over 47 years, Ann, who passed away in September 24, 2011, and thus dedicated his second end to end hike, too.

Here is his record:

#204	August 30, 2006
#334	May 2, 2012
#369	July 4, 2013
#385	September 6, 2015
#433	July 22, 2017
#454	April 29, 2019
#76	Branch Trail (Started December 13, 2011 and finished August 18, 2012)🍁

## Chenango County Hike Series Update

Larry Blumberg

We have around 140 registered for the hike series, a significant uptick from the past two years...I think getting closer to the population center of upstate N.Y. really helps, along with good publicity from the past couple of years, and then the lower price (much shorter bus shuttles vs. the Catskills) definitely makes it more palatable for folks.



Lisa Weismiller

### Hike Series Participation Numbers:

2019 - 142  
2018 - 102  
2017 - 82

*The group stopped for lunch at the Bainbridge railroad station.*



Lisa Weismiller

*Sisters Kerri and Colleen are crossing one of the unique styles of stile designed by Tony Preus about 25 years ago or more, where, instead of a ladder up and over both sides, his more gently sloped “ladder” climbs to a single upright post and permits the fence to go through the stile at right angles to the trail. Photographer Lisa comes from Connecticut for these hikes!*



***Finger Lakes Trail Conference – 2019 Annual Fall Campout***  
**September 20 to September 22 - Hosted by Bullthistle Hiking Club**  
**Fred's Inn & Restaurant - Norwich**



The Bullthistle Hiking Club is looking forward to hosting an enjoyable FLT Fall weekend September 20-22. The event location is Fred's Inn & Restaurant in Norwich. Not only is there on-site lodging available, there is a full bar and restaurant. We know that no one will go away hungry from the Friday or Saturday night buffet dinners. Fred's Inn is known for buffet meals with plenty of food from salad, entrees, hot sides to desserts. After full days of hiking, participants will be able to relax in the bar (cash) and then attend the buffet meals with entertainment that will make your visit to Norwich truly memorable. We have made an effort to include activities for those new to hiking, non-hikers, and the veteran hikers.

**Schedule of Events**

**Friday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 AM	Registration Opens
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Hikes depart, see schedule
5:00 PM	Social hour, Cash bar available
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Buffet dinner
7:30 PM	Presentation by Henry Drexler

**Saturday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>**

8:00 AM	Registration opens
7:30 PM – 9:30 AM	Pre-paid bag lunch pick up
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Hikes Depart
5:00 PM	Social hour, cash bar
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Buffet dinner
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Remarks and awards
7:30 PM	Presentation by Rick Brockway

**Sunday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Pre-paid bag lunch pick up
8:00 AM – 9:00AM	Hikes Depart
9:00 AM – Noon	FLT Board meeting

**After dinner presentations:**

**Friday** evening, Henry Drexler will present on the history of Chenango County and the local landscape. Henry is a self-taught contemporary artist from Chenango County. His artwork is inspired by that experience, the rural landscape and his interest in gardening and local history. He has been represented by galleries in Lexington, Mass., Lambertville, N.J., Bethesda, Md., and Alexandria, Va. Presently, his work can be seen at the Smithy-Pioneer Gallery in Cooperstown, N.Y. He served as a trustee and deputy historian of the Chenango County Historical Society. Henry and his wife, Anita, live in the Town of Guilford. They have planted thousands of trees and developed the 63 acre property using permaculture principles to encourage a rich diversity of plants and wildlife. He has photographed his gardens and the Chenango County landscape for over 40 years and draws upon these photographs for his public presentations. In 2006 he decided to photograph all the dairy barns in Chenango County. This led to the creation of an archive that now contains over 22,000 images.



Warren Johnson

*If you are new to this organization, Ed Sidote was THE FLT volunteer in Chenango County, and many things along the trail keep his memory alive.*

On **Saturday**, Rick Brockway will present on "Hiking and other Outdoor Adventures." Rick was raised on the family farm outside West Oneonta where he learned to love nature and the out-of-doors. Rick climbed mountains, fished the rivers and streams and hunted deer and bear in the rugged backcountry. He was a licensed Adirondack guide for over 20 years, leading people into the wilderness both on foot and on horseback. He has hunted and fished in Alaska and northern Quebec above the Arctic Circle as well as across the United States and Canada. These exploits led him to being the Outdoor Columnist for Oneonta's *Daily Star* for the last 18 years and he has been published in a dozen different outdoor magazines including *Big Game Adventures* (published in Alberta, Canada) and *Fur-Fish-Game*. He was a staff writer for *Fly Fishing New England* and *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing*. To celebrate his 60th birthday, Rick put on a backpack and hiked across the Adirondacks on the 125 mile Northville-Placid Trail. At 70, he climbed all of the 35 High Peaks of the Catskills, becoming a member of the Catskill 3500 Club.



## **HIKES:**

Hikes Meet at the parking lot of Fred's Inn near the gazebo.

Drive times are how long it will take to get back to Fred's from the end of hike, start of hike will take longer if there is a car shuttle involved.

## **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th**

**A1 - Map M22 Ridge Road to County Rt. 12C**, 11.4 miles, Strenuous. Meet at 8:45 AM at the intersection of County Road 12C and County Road 12, Lincklean, NY ( near the Chenango/Cortland County Line)

This is a beautiful hike through state forests and open meadows with plenty of ups and downs. Visit the Paradise Garden Lean-to which is dedicated to Howard Beye. Briefly take steps in Madison County. Leader: Larry Blumberg

NOTE: Due to an early start this is the only hike that does not meet at Fred's. Hikers can register after the hike.

**A2 - Map M24 Sherman Road to Tucker Road**, 5.6 miles, Moderate. Meet at 12:00 PM, drive time: 25 minutes

Hike through Ludlow Creek State Forest, and McDonough State Forest with stone fences and an abandoned road, remnants of when it was farmland. Cross the road at East McDonough where all that remains of this community are a few houses and The Outpost, a bar and grill.

Combine this hike with hikes B2 and C2 for a total of 14.6 miles on the FLT completing map M24 and part of M25. Leader: Bruce Coon

**A3 - Map M23 Warner Road to John Smith Road**, 4.3 miles, Moderate. Meet at 12:15 PM, drive time: 35 minutes

This hike will take you up and down a few hills and past a passport rubbing and scenic Jackson Pond on beautifully maintained trail. Hike B3 and C3 and you will complete map 23. Hike Leader: Jon Bowen

**A4 - Hunts Pond**: 2 miles. Easy. Meet at 2:00 PM. Drive time 30 min.

Hike the site of former Hunts Pond State Park, home to a diverse area of conifer forest, hard wood forest and open lands. This is a perfect hike for those who have to travel far but still want to get out and enjoy the scenery before Social Hour and Supper. Leader: Donna Coon

**A5 - Historical Hike through the City of Norwich**, 3miles, Easy. Meet at 1:15 PM. Drive time 5 minutes.

We will hike north along the path of the Chenango Canal (1837-1878) through the City of Norwich. Then we will hike south along the path of the O&W Railway (1868-1957) back to our cars. Leader: Don Windsor

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st**

**B1 - Map M24/25 South Oxford Bridge to Bliven-Sherman Rd.**, 12.4 miles. Strenuous. Drive time: 25 minutes

The last hike of the Chenango County Hike Series. If you would like to join the County Hike Series Hikers for this hike please let Donna Coon coledonnarn@yahoo.com know on or before Friday Sept. 20th

**B2 - Map M24/25 South Oxford Bridge to Tucker Road**, 6.8 miles. Moderate to strenuous. Meet at 7:45AM. Drive time 25 minutes.

See remnants of the Chenango Canal near the South Oxford Bridge. Hike along scenic Bowman Creek. Hike past a "stone pile." Go by a passport rubbing. Visit Ludlow Lean-to. Hike leader: Bruce Coon

**B3 - Map M23 John Smith Road to Nine Mile DEC Truck Trail**, 5.3 miles. Moderate. Meet at 9 AM. Drive time: 30 minutes

This hike continues from A3. You will pass by the remains of a CCC Camp and continue on through trail that was rerouted off road in 2015 and across a bridge built in 2016 by the Bullthistles. A great spot for a photo. Hike Leader: Julie Thompson



Peg Fuller

*Oh, how that trail calls to me!*



**B4 - Cook Park Hike/ Black Bear Winery Visit**, Hike 2 miles, Easy. Meet at 9:45 AM. Drive time: 30 minutes.

Cook Park is a small County owned tent and RV campground with a pond and hiking trails. We will hike, have lunch at the Park and then take a short drive to Black Bear Winery. Black Bear Winery makes a variety of non-grape wines produced with NYS fruit. Hike Leader: Peg Fuller

**B5 - Round Pond**, 3 miles, Easy. Meet at 9:30 AM. Drive time: 20 min.

Round Pond is located in the Pharsalia Woods State Forest. Along with hiking trails this area has an accessible boardwalk that leads to an elevated, covered viewing platform overlooking the 90-acre Round Pond wetland complex that contains several protected plants, including the carnivorous pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) The wetland also provides habitat for many wetland bird species including sandhill cranes (*Antigone canadensis*), uncommon visitors to New York State. Hike Leader: Bekky Hargrave

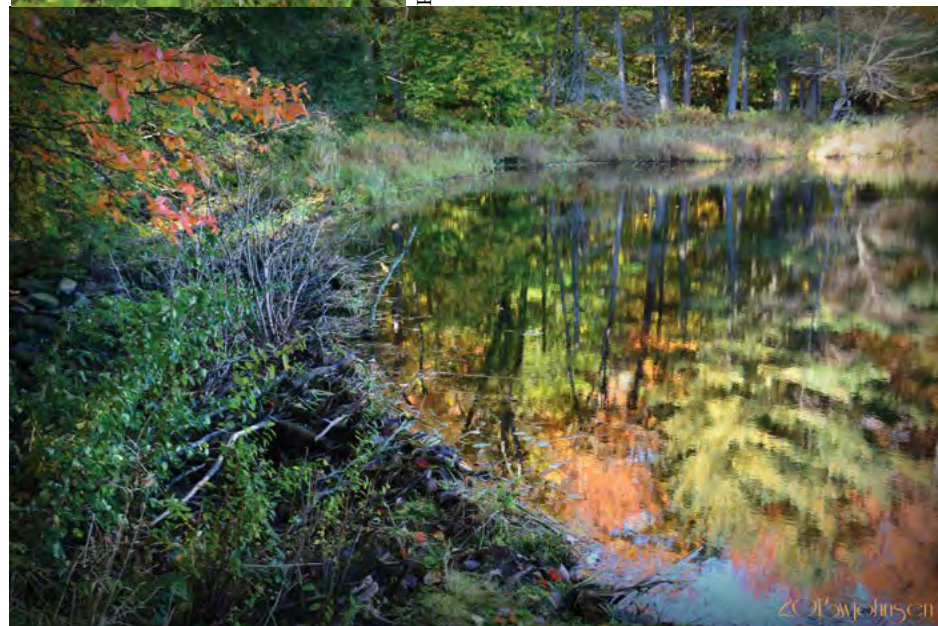
**B6 - Bowman Lake Area**, 4.0 miles, Moderate. Meet at 10:00AM. Drive time 20 minutes.

Enjoy the serenity and beauty of the park in fall while hiking on trails and sections of remote dirt roads in and around Bowman Lake State Park. Hike Leader: Joseph Angelino



*Yes, an actual bullthistle.*

Peg Fuller



Warren Johnsen

*The Kopac Trail in Bowman Lake State Park includes this bright jewel in autumn.*

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd**

**C1 - Map 22 Warner Road to Ridge Road**, 8.6 miles. Strenuous. Meet at 8:30. Drive time: 40 minutes

Hike A1 and C1 and you will complete map M22. You will pass by the Winston Braxton Memorial Bench. Woods, Hills, and the Otselic River. Leader: Dave Sadler

**C2 - Map M 24 Sherman Road to Intersection of County Road 10 and Tower Road**, 4.2 miles. Moderate. Meet at 9:15 AM. Drive time 25 minutes

This hike continues on from B2 through Bowman Lake State Park and past the Berry Hill Fire Tower. Hike Leader: Bruce Coon

**C3 - Map 23 Nine Mile DEC Truck Trail to Tower Road**, 4.3 miles. Moderate. Meet at 9:00AM. Drive time: 25 minutes

Hike on park-like trail past the Sidote Memorial Bench. Visit the must see Pharsalia Woods Lean-to. Leaders: Carrie Williams and Dan O'Shea

**C4 - Roger's Environmental Education Center**, 2miles, Easy. Meet at 9:15. Drive time 25 min.

A leisurely nature hike traversing a variety of habitat. We'll be on the look out for mushrooms and fungi if the weather cooperates. Leader: Carol Smith

**C5 - A visit to Little Merritt's Tomb**. Very easy, Meet at 9:30 AM. Drive time 15 minutes

A short walk to visit "a unique tomb with a window, marking the final resting place of young Merritt Beardsley upon his death in 1865." Guide: Warren Johnsen



Peg Fuller

*Fall's asters will greet us in September.*



## AREA ATTRACTIONS:

Northeast Classic Car Museum  
24 Rexford Street  
Norwich, NY 13815  
(607) 334-2886  
[www.classiccarmuseum.org](http://www.classiccarmuseum.org)



The Northeast Classic Car Museum collects, preserves, interprets and exhibits vehicles related to the evolution of transportation, with particular emphasis on the role of the automobile and its impact on American culture. Enjoy over 200 cars, trucks and motorcycles on display! Pre-war, Post-war, largest Franklin exhibit in the world, cars made in N.Y., motorcycles, airplane engines, gas pumps and vintage clothing on display throughout the museum. The special theme room will be "Those 70's." **A special discount admission rate of \$8 has been arranged for the Fall FLT weekend. The discount will be given to anyone who presents their hike registration name tag. The museum is open 9 AM to 5 PM every day.**

## MEALS:

Pre-ordered grab and go lunches for Saturday and Sunday contains bottle of water, fruit, wrap, dessert.

Wrap choices are: Ham with cheese, lettuce, tomato, mustard. Turkey with lettuce, tomato, honey mustard. Veggie (multiple veggies with hummus).

Friday night buffet: salad bar, vegetable lasagna, Italian sausage with peppers & onions, sirloin beef tips with mushrooms in Merlot demi glaze, pork loin in gravy, butternut squash, Mediterranean mixed vegetables, oven roasted seasoned red potatoes, scalloped potatoes with ham, mozzarella sticks, breaded toasted ravioli, and a dessert bar.

Saturday night buffet: salad bar, chef carved baked ham and roast turkey carving station, chicken marsala, vegetable lasagna, Swedish meatballs, seafood Newburg, sweet corn, herb stuffing, sautéed green beans with roasted red peppers, honey roasted red potatoes, breaded vegetables, breaded macaroni & cheese bites, and a dessert bar.

Breakfast is on your own; ask at registrations for recommendations.

For more information about the area visit Commerce Chenango at [www.visitchenango.com](http://www.visitchenango.com) or Discover Chenango County at [www.chenangocounty.org](http://www.chenangocounty.org)

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Fred's Inn & Restaurant 5149 NY 12 Norwich, NY 13815. Please use side entrance. It is 1.5 miles south of Norwich Walmart.

*From the south:* Interstate 81 N. Take exit 6 for US 11 toward NY 12/ Nimmonsburg/Chenango Bridge. Continue onto NY 12 N (32.0 mi). Destination on the left.

*From the north:* Interstate 81. Take exit 10 for US 11/NY-41 S. Sharp right onto NY 41 S (14.0 mi). Turn left onto NY 26 N (1.4 mi). Turn right onto NY 23 E (7.4 mi). Turn right onto County Rd 10 (9.1 mi). Turn right onto County Rt 4/Georgetown Rd. Continue to follow County Rt 4 (2.3 mi). Continue onto Georgetown Rd (3.7 mi). Turn left onto NY 12 N. Destination on the left.

## Other Attractions:

Rogers Environmental Center:  
[www.friendsofrogers.org](http://www.friendsofrogers.org)

Wolf Mountain:  
[www.thewolfmountainnaturecenter.org](http://www.thewolfmountainnaturecenter.org)  
(Sunday only noon to 4 PM)

Black Bear Winery:  
[www.blackbearwinery.com](http://www.blackbearwinery.com)

Good Nature Farm Brewery & Tap room:  
[www.goodnaturebrewing.com](http://www.goodnaturebrewing.com)

Numerous Farm Markets throughout Chenango County



Warren Johnsen

*The Bullthistle Bridge has received more beautifications by Larry Chesboro.*

*From the east:*

Take Interstate 88 W to exit 13 toward NY 205 N. Turn right onto NY 205 N (2.1 mi). Turn left onto NY 23 W. Follow Rt. 23 west to Norwich. Turn left onto NY 12/N Broad St. Continue to follow NY 12 through Norwich. Destination will be on the right.



## LODGING LIST:

Fred's Inn has only 25 rooms available, at a discounted rate of \$69 per night. Individuals interested in this option should act fast and contact the Inn at (607)334-9282. Be sure to mention the FLT hiking event that you are attending. All rooms have mini-fridges, TVs, hairdryers, irons, coffeemakers, microwaves in every room and internet. Fred's Inn will allow a limited number of small, tear drop size trailers to dry camp in the parking lot. Contact Peg Fuller, BHC President at 315-653-7345 or peg379@gmail.com for details.



We have provided a list of other lodging for you to make your own choice based on your preferences. Chenango County offers fabulous bed & breakfasts, numerous campgrounds, and several hotels.

**Host location:** Discount rate  
Fred's Inn Restaurant & Lodging  
5149 State Hwy. 12  
Norwich, NY 13815  
(607) 334-9282  
www.fredsinn.com

### Bed and Breakfasts

Bainbridge House Bed & Breakfast  
1648 County Rd. 39  
Bainbridge, NY 13733  
www.thebainbridgehouse.com  
(607) 320-4003

Broadlawns Bed & Breakfast  
1567 State Highway 26  
So. Otselic, NY 13155  
www.broadlawnsbb.com  
(315) 653-7490 or (607) 244-2447

Serenity Farms B&B  
386 Pollard Road (Just off CR 3/Tyner Rd.)  
Greene, NY 13778  
(607) 656-4659  
They're pet friendly too!

Splendor Inn Bed and Breakfast  
75 South Broad Street  
Norwich, NY 13815  
(607) 336-5003  
www.splendorinn.com

### Hotels and Motels

Algonkin Motel  
2626 State Hwy. 7  
Bainbridge, NY 13733  
(607) 967-5911  
www.algonkinmotel.com

Howard Johnson Hotel  
(Chenango Inn & Suites)  
75 North Broad Street  
Norwich, NY 13815-1331  
(607) 334-2200

Super 8 by Wyndham Norwich  
6067 State Hwy. 12  
Norwich, NY 13815  
(607) 336-8880 / (800) 454-3213  
www.super8.com  
Pets allowed

Susquehanna Motor Lodge &  
Riverside RV Campgrounds  
Route 206 & I-88  
Bainbridge NY 13733  
Phone: (607) 967-2102

### Camping

Gaius Cook Park Campground  
189 Park Road  
Greene, NY 13778  
(607) 656-8752

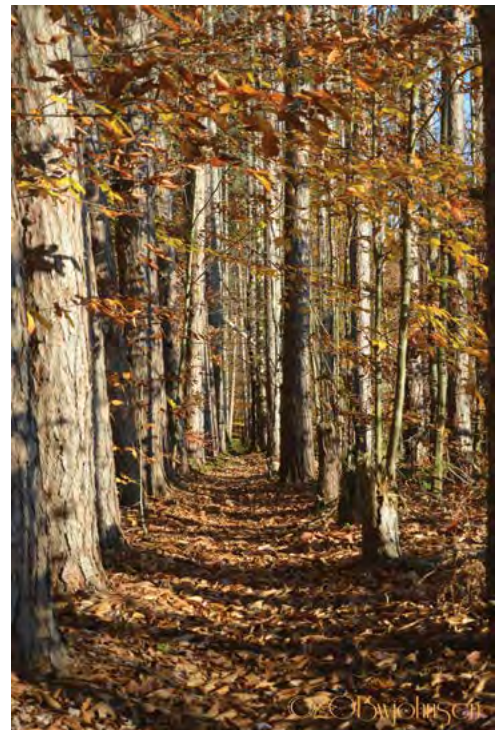
Bowman Lake State Park  
745 Bliven Sherman Road  
Oxford, NY 13830  
(607) 334-2718  
<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/76/details.aspx>

Tall Pines Campground  
2715 County Rd 35 (off Rte 8 N)  
Bainbridge, NY 13733  
[www.TallPinesCampground-NY.com](http://www.TallPinesCampground-NY.com)  
(607) 563-8271



Hikers negotiate lumps of dry land in Basswood State Forest.

Maryann Weiss



The FLT beckons near Chestnut Rd. near Oxford.

Warren Johnsen

***Finger Lakes Trail Conference – 2019 Annual Fall Campout***  
**September 20 to September 22 - Hosted by Bullthistle Hiking Club**  
**Fred's Inn & Restaurant - Norwich, NY**

Registration online at [www.bullthistlehiking.org](http://www.bullthistlehiking.org) or by mail (Bullthistle Hiking Club P.O. Box 225 Norwich, NY 13815) using the form below. One form per person. Registration deadline is September 8, 2019. No refunds after Sept. 8, 2019. Contact BHC with any questions ([bullthistler@gmail.com](mailto:bullthistler@gmail.com))

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone # \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Local Hiking Club/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$10 per person (hike leaders fee is waived) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meals:

Friday dinner: \$22.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch: \$6.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(circle one) Ham Turkey Veggie

Saturday dinner: \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday lunch: \$6.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(circle one) Ham Turkey Veggie

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate any food allergies, concerns here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate choice of hikes:

Friday: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday: \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday: \_\_\_\_\_

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 personal 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 our own safety and selecting activities that are consistent with our physical capabilities.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Finger Lakes and North Country Trail Workshop

Mary Coffin

## Trail Design and Construction at the 2019 International Trails Symposium

The 2019 International Trails Symposium was held in Syracuse this year and attended by over 600 participants. One of the workshops sponsored by the Finger Lakes and North Country Trails focused on trail design and construction by National Trail standards.

We had 16 participants representing trails in three countries. After a brief PowerPoint review of the NCTA and NPS criteria for sustainable trail design we headed out to the trail for the hands on experience. We worked on a section of partially constructed, relocated NCT/FLT Onondaga Trail in Onondaga County's Highland Forest.

We had previously set up various stations along the trail to demonstrate design and construction techniques and use of various tools. Participants had the opportunity to move through the stations, and experience flagging new trail to a 10% slope with a clinometer, benching a flat trail with hazelhoe and Pulaski tool after removing organic matter, removing the outer berm, dropping the outslope 5%, installing box steps, using two-person cross cut saws, and installing a water bar and culvert.

At each station I had the assistance of ADK-Onondaga volunteers to demonstrate skills and encourage participants to try hands on experiences. The hit of the day was trying out the two-person saw. I really appreciated the eight volunteers. 🍁



Ed O'Shea



Ed O'Shea

*Constructing a box step at the turn of a switchback leg.*

## 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](mailto: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.

Gift In Memory of

**Kathy Bills Armstrong**

*from*

**Teresa & Maxwell Blenis**

Gift In Honor of

**Harry Clar**

*from*

**Lonnie & Suzanne Clar**

# Trail Topics: Ode to Trail Tenders

*Lynda Rummel, VP for Trail Quality*

A short while ago, I retired from my other volunteer position as Regional Trail Coordinator (RTC) for the 60 miles of trail between Bath and Watkins Glen (plus the Queen Catharine Marsh and the Montour Falls Historic Loop Trails). I had done this job for about a decade and a half, although it seems like forever. It's hard to believe it's time to give it up and hand it over to someone else.

This job gave me great pleasure. It gave me an excuse to get out in the woods, on trail other than the section I still maintain, and meet with the terrific sponsors who tend the trail in this region. Currently, there are two Boy Scout Troops, one Girl Scout Troop, and ±20 individuals, plus me, working on this section, from its rural, roaded start where I-86 passes over NYS 415 (M 12) to the end of the descent into the Village of Watkins Glen (M14), and all the active farms, regenerating farm lands, wood lots, state forests, and county and state park lands in between. The stretch includes the junctions with the Bristol Hills Branch and the Crystal Hills Branch (Great Eastern Trail) and of course it hosts the North Country National Scenic Trail. The individual sponsors (maintainers) range from a guy who runs a bike shop to a retired forest ranger to a former logistics manager to a husband and wife whose *mother* worked on the trail. The permitting private landowners include farmers, hunters, social services providers, lawyers, construction companies, a campground, and the families of a famous Watkins Glen race car driver, a regionally prominent philanthropist, and a well-known wine maker. It has been a joy to work with them all.

This job has given me a long, inside look at the remarkable Trail Management organization that has built, maintained, and grown the FLT System since nearly its inception some 57 years ago. At the time I "joined up," there was a single person and organizational position at the top of Trail Management. Trail Preservation had been spun off to a new position and Regional Trail Coordinators had been established; but when the VP-Trail Management passed away suddenly in 2008, his huge Trail Management function had to be subdivided into four more positions. As an RTC, my "boss" was the VP-Trail Maintenance, the very best of which was a highway engineer named Steve Catherman. (The VP-Trail Maintenance position is currently vacant. Several of its duties have been handed off to others, so the main responsibility of the VP-Trail Maintenance now is to oversee the system of RTC's, which currently consists of 15 individuals.)

As the RTC for this region, I interacted with just one "affiliate" club (ADK-Finger Lakes Chapter) whose job was to maintain the 28 mile "Art Kopp Section" that runs from the hamlet of South Bradford to Rt. 14 in Watkins Glen. Even though the stretch is named for the famous member of the chapter who laid out the section, the ADK-Finger Lakes Chapter gave up its maintenance duties in the early 2000s, which gave me a few years to reroute the Art Kopp Section off of the old roads and horse trails the trail had been built on and find new individual sponsors to take over. Now there are only individuals and Scout troops (no clubs) doing the

maintenance work for this 60-mile stretch. This column is an ode to these individuals and Scout troops and is my way of thanking them for giving me the joy of working with them.

The individuals and troops who maintain this region, like all the sponsors throughout the system, are both dedicated and hard working. They love being out in the woods, and most of all, they love the trail that gets them there. It's not hyperbolic to say that they *cherish* this skinny footpath. They know and appreciate "their" landowners, too, and are truly grateful to them for allowing the trail to cross their lands. They address trail issues as soon as they can, using weed whackers, mowers, hand saws, and loppers. Some are certified sawyers, so can use the chainsaw to clear wind or ice storm damage. Others are starting to learn how to use big crosscut saws. They worry about erosion. They build and put in puncheon over persistently wet sections, and they help relocate the trail when necessary. They are both proud and humble that they can do something good that benefits others, and they feel horrible when a section is closed and hate the road walks that ensue.

So to them – Taylor Crowe and Amy Bizup, Steve Catherman, Bob Plaskov, Toby Beers, Troop 18 Hammondsport, Jeff Amsden and family, Donna Noteware, Hammondsport Girl Scout Troop, Gary and Penny Shaw, Dutch Yowell, John Jay and family, Jessica Brown, Dave Newlun, Paul and Kathy Good, Bill Meehan, Robin Hubbard and family, Amanda and Tracy Guntow, and Troop 2674 Watkins Glen -- I say, thank you. I have loved working with you. I'm sure my successor, Bill Meehan, will, too.

Finally, a special thanks to Donna Noteware, RTC for the Bristol Hills Branch, who has worked with me on many of my regional projects and given me the chance to work on several of hers. She is a dear friend and colleague with whom I will continue to work on a few jobs that are already underway. 🍁

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

Gift In Memory of

**Tom Reimers**

*from*

**Irene Szabo**



# 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*

*Once again, your editor has to collect trail news from around the state. Wouldn't somebody PLEASE raise her or his hand for this job? The job is so much smaller now that others have walked off with lots of the tasks.*

Regional Trail Coordinator Peter Wybron has lots of news items from his main trail territory between Interstate 81 and the Genesee River. Updates to Map M10 at mile marker 8.0 Cunningham Creek Road.

By the request of the owner. Hikers, DO NOT park in the parking lot for Cider Creek Hard Cider Brewery. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed. There is some shoulder parking at this location.

Also additional dates have been added to the hunting closure on Map M10. The trail is now closed for hunting from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31st and September 1st to December 20th. Use the bypass shown on the map. Map M10 has been revised as of 4/1/2019.

"The landowner has also notified me that a campfire and litter have been found on the trail. Obviously he doesn't know if the fire was set by one of our hikers or someone else, but he is very concerned."

Better news from Pete: Welcome to the new FLT-Steward for the ADK-Genesee Valley Chapter. Beth Wheeler will oversee the maintenance of the FLT covered by the ADK-GVC on Map 9 from Access Point 9 to AP10 and on Map M10 from AP1 to Lower Glen Ave. I also want to welcome Adam Dwyer, who will maintain the trail on Map M9 from Hopkins Rd. to AP9. This is the new section of trail through the Kanakadea County Park & Campgrounds.

However, don't cheer up yet. In early May it was discovered that a tree had fallen on the Hesse Lean-to, re-roofed just last summer on Map M7. The roof looks it can be salvaged, but getting the fallen tree off and picking up the assembled roof will be a challenge in fighting gravity.

**On Map M6, Marty Howden reports a trail sponsor opening. JC Sawyer needs to give up her section, from Access 2 in the west to where the trail returns to road walk on CR 3 on the east end. Great sections of forest, with two short blue trails, need your loving attention. Call Marty to offer your help. Howser 51@yahoo.com.**

And from Lynda Rummel: John Jay, trail sponsor for the section that runs from Birdseye Hollow Day Park to South Bradford (M 13), reports that he found a stretch of trail, albeit a small stretch of about a mile, that is actually clear (of branches, blowdowns, and vegetation) and DRY. The stretch of dry trail runs from Aulls Rd., south of AP 3, south to the trail register. Who would



Pete Wybron

*Hesse Lean-to after a pair of trees knocked its roof off.*

have thought that there would be any dry trail in the Birdseye Hollow/Mud Creek area! Turns out that his co-sponsor, Jessica Brown, had been tending to that stretch over the winter. Let this be a gentle reminder that all co-sponsors need to stay in touch!

2) Trees in Birdseye Hollow State Forest have been marked by the DEC in advance of our two chainsaw certification workshops being held this spring, May 4 & 5 and May 18 & 19, on state forest lands adjacent to Steuben County's Birdseye Hollow day use area (Map M 13). On day



Pete Wybron

one of the workshop, trainees will attempt to hit a target when felling these trees; on the following day, trainees will attempt to clear the piles of downed trees, which simulate "messes" often found on the trail after strong winds, heavy snows, or freezing rains. Thanks to Marty Howden for arranging for the training and to Bill Lindloff for two weekends of busted misconceptions!

Big news: Bill Meehan has replaced Lynda Rummel as the Regional Trail Coordinator for Watkins Glen West. A graduate of the SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry (at Syracuse), Bill is the retired DEC Forest Ranger for Schuyler Co. He was recruited into the FLTC by Howard Beye and, almost 20 years ago, helped Lynda reroute the Art Kopp section between South Bradford and Watkins Glen, including felling trees for and building rustic puncheon with them west of CR 21. He has maintained a section of trail (M14, Sugar Hill Rd. - Mohawk Trail near the Sugar Hill Fire Tower) and has helped with keeping the more remote sections of the region's trail clear after major weather events for many years. Upon retirement a year or so ago, he served as Project Manager for the Moss Hill Lean-to Rebuild. Most recently, he completed rerouting the trail in the Sugar Hill State Forest in anticipation of upcoming logging. Bill has also supervised several Eagle Scout projects including building a new lean-to at Parks Hollow (M14) and a shed-style ADA compliant outhouse at Sugar Hill. Bill is a certified sawyer and is even fairly useful with a crosscut saw (or so his predecessor says). Lynda Rummel

M14: Reroutes around two soon-to-be logged areas in Sugar Hill State Forest have been flagged. From west to east, the first is in the plantation east of private land east of CR 21/south of old Sickler Rd.; the second is between Templar Rd. and Van Zandt Hollow Rd. Bill Meehan reports that the second (and shorter) relo is a bit rough at this time, but the first relo can be hiked. Hikers can skirt the second relo by walking east on Templar Rd. to Van Zandt Hollow Rd. and then north (uphill) to the trail crossing. There can be a surprising amount of traffic on these roads, so be sure to walk facing on-coming traffic.

M13, the main trail, Access 6 at NYS 54 to Access 7 at Winding Stair Rd., Ian Walruth has replaced Tom Mitchell as the trail maintenance leader for Hammondsport Scout Troop 18. Many thanks to Tom for shepherding this troop along the trail for so many years. Their section includes the switchbacks that climb up the side of Mt. Washington. Lynda Rummel

**Oops. Yet another last minute trail sponsor opening: On the Letchworth Trail, Map L1, the northernmost 3 miles are crying for adoption, from the north terminus at the Genesee Valley Greenway south to the Hogsback Overlook. Popular trail so it deserves picking up, lots of old growth forest with huge oaks, hemlocks, white pines. As the trail nears the FLT Office at the Mt. Morris Dam, what was old farm field is now growing back to bushes and trees. Corps of Engineers mows that section, but**

**the bushes require lots of attention. Final mile is lovely woods along gorge edge with some views. Contact RTC Irene Szabo at [treeweenie@aol.com](mailto:treeweenie@aol.com), 585/494-0307 to volunteer or ask questions.**

Terry Meacham found a recently cut down ash tree near the Burt Hill Shelter on Map M10. Since it's in the middle of a state forest, he wondered who cut it down and why. Gretchen Cicora, DEC Senior Forester in the Bath office said,

"The ash taken down by the lean-to was us (DEC). We've been going around all of the parking lots, lean-tos, etc., and cutting down hazard trees, including dead and dying ash. The ones next to camping/lean-to locations we're leaving to be burned eventually."

So this new policy probably explains some mystery cut trees all over the state within state forests. Good idea! 🍁

Gift In Memory of

**Tom Reimers**

*from*

**William & Mary Coffin**

## FOR SALE

--- 1 pair vintage snowshoes, Snowcraft Brand, made in Norway, Maine. Wood and rawhide with leather bindings. Shape is slight upside-down pear - dimensions: 30" length, width at front 15", width at back 13". Excellent condition. Price - - \$150 or BO.

--- 1 pair vintage snowshoes, Nordic Specialties Brand, Goleta, California. Wood and rawhide, classic shape w/ leather bindings and crampons. Dimensions are 30" length X 10" wide. Excellent condition. Price -- \$150 or BO.

These snowshoes are the real deal! They have been loved, enjoyed and are well maintained.

Mary Lynn 585-671-6508 [phantomchef@rochester.rr.com](mailto:phantomchef@rochester.rr.com)



# Trail Topics: Map Updates

Greg Farnham, VP of Mapping

Maps updated since the last issue include M10, M12, L2, B2 and M11. We also (still) have a change to M14 in process. M27 and M28 are also being updated for reroutes.

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

## Map Fidelity, Authoritative or Informative?

My volunteer purpose and commitment to the FLTC is to ensure that our maps accurately reflect conditions on the ground. In my opinion, this is the only acceptable level of quality our maps must guarantee. Every map must provide accurate, current and complete information on the content of the purpose of the map.

This column has previously discussed maps of different purposes, and the contradictory information that can be found. A map from Google, Apple, Mapquest or any “road” map publisher, may show different names (or locations) for roads. Those road maps may have different names for roads than a Finger Lakes Trail map shows. Some road maps may also show the Finger Lakes Trail.

When faced with different data about the same subject, one must consider the source’s authority. In the case of a road name, a road map should be more authoritative than a trail map (if there are differences.) Likewise, the Finger Lakes Trail map should be the most authoritative and accurate map available for the trail. If an FLT map is found to be inaccurate, and there is no posting on our Trail Conditions page that succeeds the map revision date, then PLEASE report your finding according to the instructions on our website.

*(Aside:) This should happen only once for any trail change, because sometimes a trail change occurs before the mapping process is informed. In fact, many of our map changes begin with a hiker encountering something new (new landowner closure, new hunting closure, new logging activity, the trail finally slid into the gorge, etc.) If someone encounters a condition like this, we (RTCs, sponsors, mappers) don’t know about it unless it is reported. Once it is reported, a note will go onto the Trail Conditions page, and then this hole in the dike is plugged. Usually our fine sponsors and RTC know about pending changes ahead of time, and prepare the necessary map change request and Trail Conditions posting before any hiker encounters the condition. But sometimes we all get surprised, and an unsuspecting hiker is the first person to document and communicate that change.*

That pretty much dispatches the subject of map authority, leaving my subject of information. Many maps try to be informative to their user (noble goal, right?). But when that goal leads to maps including information that is NOT authoritative, the map become incorrect, which I feel makes it a bad map, because wrong information is worse than no information. As an example, I often find the FLT on Google Maps when I am looking for a village or road. I wonder where they got their data for the FLT. They did not

get it from the FLTC, and they don’t get updates from the FLTC. Changes in our trail keep two of us busy updating maps, and I can guarantee the FLT shown on any Google Map is very likely to be incorrect.

As another example, many of our FLT maps include trails marked as “non-FLT” trails, portrayed in a shade of magenta. I don’t know when the trails were added to our maps, nor where the data for them came from. I know from the marking “non-FLT” that we don’t “own” or maintain them. But I suspect they move as often as our trail moves. Therefore, I would caution any hiker to beware when looking at “non-FLT” trails on any of our FLT maps, either paper (PDF), GPX, or interactive. All bets are off when looking at trails shown as “non-FLT” because we don’t know who owns any of those trails, or who maintains them. In a few cases where we do know the source, for example, the DEC, we have no way of knowing when those trails are re-routed. The “non-FLT” trails you see in our maps may or may not be accurate. A starting guess would be that there is a 50/50 chance they are correct.

This situation does not survive my map accuracy test. I can rationalize that having this (potentially wrong) data on our maps is still useful to the FLT hiker, if the hiker acknowledges that “non-FLT” data is likely inaccurate. Showing one of these trails may be useful, for example, to locate an intersection with the FLT, but not to navigate or follow the non-FLT trail. It may be good to know where the non-FLT trail intersects the FLT trail by seeing it on our map, but this also assumes the non-FLT trail has NOT been changed in a way that changes its FLT intersection. I do know that in nearly a decade of updating FLT maps, none of these non-FLT trails has been updated. *Caveat Emptor.* 🍁



**Contact:** Greg Farnham  
FLTCmapping@outlook.com

# Trail Topics: Trail Preservation

*Dave Newman, Vice President of Trail Preservation*

There is a lot of hurry up – then wait – involved as we work to get more of the trail onto permanently protected routes. Sometimes it starts with one of our hundreds of landowners responding to articles like this one, or to a direct approach by one of our volunteers, asking if they would make the trail route across their property permanent.

This quarter we have two easements to report. The first one, in Cortland County's Town of Solon, came about due to the dogged persistence of FLTC volunteer Mary Coffin, who has worked for a long time to resolve a key link in trail connectivity east from Baker Schoolhouse State Forest. Changing land ownership patterns had resulted in a long road walk. Mary's persistence in checking potential alternative routes wound up with a landowner new to us, and not just a new route, but what we really, really appreciate, a new route with a permanent easement. Mary shares the details in her article on page 11.

Our second new easement is from longtime landowners Meghan Therry and Scott Griswold on their property north of County Route 74 in Steuben County, Town of Prattsburgh. Here too, persistence by FLTC's Bristol Hills Trail Regional Coordinator Donna Noteware paid off. Over the years, Donna had spoken to Meghan about an easement, and now that Meghan and Scott plan to sell the property, Meghan remembered and got us the easement before putting the parcel for sale, insuring the trail can stay in its current location even with new owners. The parcel is now for sale and if you're interested in owning your own wooded lot on the trail, you can find a description in this issue on page 37.

While donated property and easements have been and will continue to be key to our preservation strategy, generous donations and bequests to our Sidote Trail Preservation Fund have given us the ability to purchase a limited number of "key" strategic properties. Our first such experience was lending funds to the Finger Lakes Land Trust so they could purchase a trail parcel south of Ithaca; as previously reported, New York State eventually was able to purchase the parcel from FLLT and we got our loaned funds back for use on the next projects.

Our first direct purchase was the "Engels" property located on White Church Rd, Town of Caroline, a key link for the trail leading east to Shindagin Hollow State Forest. Since its purchase, FLTC has accepted the State's offer to buy the property from us and make it State Forest. That was the hurry up. The wait is for the State to have time, and funding, to formalize a Land Purchase Agreement (LPA) contract between the two parties. As we do sell it, we will reserve a trail easement, and the wording on that is still in need of legal approval at DEC. Our contact at the State says that they hope to be in a position to close by the end of this year (which will free up our invested funds for use on our next project).

Finger Lakes Land Trust did another purchase, at our request, and bought the "Susquehanna Land Co." property located on

Coddington Road, Town of Caroline, using a mortgage from our Sidote Trail Preservation Fund. On this project, the FLLT and DEC have completed a Land Purchase Agreement. This contract still needs approvals from The NYS Attorney General's Office and the Office of the State Comptroller. After all approvals, the AG's Office will review title and, barring any title problems, will draft the deed for the conveyance. DEC expects this one to close in early Fall, and those funds will come back to our Sidote Fund to be reused on a future project. Again, sort of hurry up, move the paperwork along when the ball is in our court, and then wait as our counterparties do their part of the deal. While we don't have our funds back from this one yet, we do have a permanent easement on file and an Alley Cat project for this summer is scheduled to construct the necessary trail.

Wrapping up my "hurry up and wait" theme, if you remember my article in the last issue on FLTC's involvement with an Amicus Brief in a lawsuit about alienation of publicly owned trail property, well, we've been waiting. We had a flurry of activity helping with input to the lawsuit, which was heard in the Appellate Division Supreme Court on Friday, March 1. Decisions of the judges for cases heard that day were due to be released Friday March 15 which did not happen for our case, nor was it in the April 26 release or the May 3 release. The next scheduled decision release date is in June. In this case, perhaps its good news this is taking a while, as the argument is about a legal precedent we would like to see squashed and it looks like the judges are doing their homework. 🍁

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



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# FINGER LAKES TRAIL DAYS

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**FRI**  
**JULY 26**  
**2019**

## STEEP CANYON RANGERS

Rob Ickes and Trey Hensley

**GENERAL  
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Adult \$20  
Youth \$10

**GATES OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.**

**SAT**  
**JULY 27**  
**2019**

## SAWYER FREDERICKS

Cicada Rhythm  
Joshua Davis  
Aaron Lipp & The Slack Tones  
Aaron Lipp  
Joseph Alton Miller

**GENERAL  
ADMISSION**  
Adult \$10  
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**2-DAY GENERAL  
ADMISSION**  
Adult \$25  
Youth \$12.50

### Saturday Activities Include:

Guided Hikes • Yoga • Rock Wall • Zip Line • Ropes Course • Kayak Demo  
Mountain Bike Demo • RV/Tent Camping • Kids Activities  
Educational Seminars and Demonstrations

**GATES OPEN AT 11:00 A.M.**

**STEUBEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS—BATH, NY**

# Finger Lakes Trail Days

July 26-27, 2019

Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau is partnering with Finger Lakes Trail Conference and the Friends of the Chemung River in hosting the first annual Finger Lakes Trail Days on July 26-27, 2019. The event will take place at the Steuben County Fairgrounds in Bath, N.Y.

“Finger Lakes Trail Days is a celebration of all things outdoors,” said Kevin Costello, President of the Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau. “We want to draw more attention to the many ways locals and visitors can participate in outdoor recreation in the Southern Finger Lakes and felt tapping into our partnerships with the Finger Lakes Trail folks and the Friends of the Chemung was the best way to do that. We all got together and came up with the idea of hosting a weekend of great music, outdoor recreation activities and local food and drink with the goal of introducing attendees to the many opportunities there are in our region to get outside and get active.” Finger Lakes Trail Days begins on the evening of Friday, July 26th with a concert featuring the Grammy Award winning bluegrass band, Steep Canyon Rangers. In 2013, the Steep Canyon Rangers’ solo album *Nobody Knows You* won the Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album. The duet of Rob Ickes and Trey Hensley will show off their guitar and vocal prowess warming up for the Steep Canyon Rangers. Gates for Friday night open at 5:00 pm and general admission tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth.

Saturday is filled with outdoor recreation activities of all kinds along with local food, drinks, and an amazing musical line-up. Saturday’s music line-up features the 2015 winner of The Voice, Sawyer Fredericks, Cicada Rhythm, Joshua Davis, Aaron Lipp & the Slack Tones, and Joseph Alton Miller. “Attendees can experience a zip line, climb a rock wall, learn to kayak, participate in a group yoga session, go on a guided hike on the Finger Lakes Trail, learn to mountain bike, navigate a ropes course, listen and learn from experts about getting involved in nature, and so much more” said Costello.

Learn about fly fishing, discover water trails to kayak and canoe, tour a NYS fish hatchery, find out about geocaching, and biking in the Finger Lakes, hear presentations about animal tracking, edible plants on the Finger Lakes Trail and building a hiking trail. Discover how you can help Monarch butterflies, and get information about short, family friendly Passport hikes and the long distance hiking network that extends from North Dakota to Vermont, from Maine to Georgia, from NYS to Alabama and through Ontario, Canada – all trails that you can get to from the Finger Lakes Trail!

Local hikes will offer easy or challenging hikes, all with an experienced guide, and will cover many of the famous hiking spots in this area, like Birdseye Hollow, Mount Washington, Mitchellsville gorge, and the many trails of Mossy Bank Park, including its astounding view of Bath’s valleys. Hikes will depart from the Fairgrounds on Saturday between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.; those who sign up will receive info about their hike.

Volunteer to help at Trail Days and receive free entry for the day! Please sign up at: <https://www.fingerlakestraildays.com/getinvolved>. For more information about volunteer opportunities email: [info@fingerlakestraildays.com](mailto:info@fingerlakestraildays.com). Please put “volunteer” in the subject line.

Gates open at 11:00 am on Saturday and a day pass to the event is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth. For more information on tickets, activities, on-site camping opportunities and the music schedule visit [www.fingerlakestraildays.com](http://www.fingerlakestraildays.com). 🍁

## Join the FLT Yahoo Groups E-Mail List

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

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

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



# Wally Wood Hike 2019 - a Review

Marty Ruszaj

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 19 hikers braved cold windy conditions to hike a western section of the FLT in honor of its founding member, Wally Wood. The Cattaraugus County hike was offered as a 10 or 4 mile option. The two groups with staggered start times completed in the Town of Franklinville at Cash Park.

Hike highlights included:

- A green wave of sprouting plant life peeked through a white coat of snow to greet us throughout the trail.
- A flustered turkey took off from the woods as we approached. Hikers are a chatty bunch.
- Devereaux Creek crossing was easily navigated thanks to the work of 2002 ALLEY CAT Trail Crew to build an impressive bridge.
- Re-forestation was at its best in Boyce Hill State Forest
- Companionship of fellow hikers from Foothills Trail Club, FLTC, and Footprints in the Wilderness Meetup hiking group

The hearty hikers, refusing to give in to winter's grip, hiked the trail in spring jackets; enough is enough. Many of us have been hiking together each weekend throughout the winter, so a 20° wind chill was no match for those hiking in Group 1. They maintained a 20-minute per mile pace for the 10-mile hilly stretch.

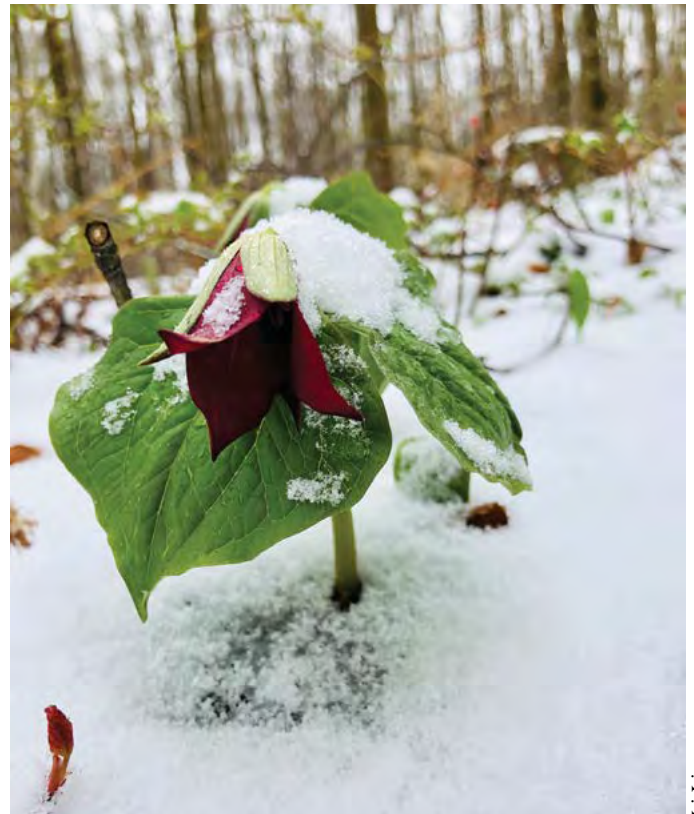
It is important to celebrate the visionary efforts of Wally Wood. Without his efforts and those of the Genesee Valley Hiking Club, the FLT would not exist as we know and enjoy it today. Similarly, we need to honor present day leaders of FLTC, two of whom we met up with at Cash Park. Donna Flood was there stoking up the fire so that we could enjoy a nice post-hike lunch. Donna is a tireless volunteer presently acting as Foothills Trail Club President, FLTC representative and Club publicity officer. She and her friend Lois Justice were glad to organize and cook like she has done countless times for other hikes and work parties.

Finally, the day was capped off when Tony Orisini visited with us at the Park that he was so instrumental in bringing to life a few years back. Tony has retired to Tennessee, but still makes it back to help steward that section of the trail. As the group shared hotdogs around the fire pit, Tony described how as a boy he and his friends played in the creek that parallels the FLT in what is now Cash Park. Development of the trail and its recreational area was a "labor of love" for Tony. The park has many newly planted trees each of which is dedicated to members of Tony's family.

We can all take a lesson for the volunteerism demonstrated by the actions of Donna, Tony and of course, Wally Wood. 🍁



*Donna Flood (front) and Lois Justice kept warm cooking for the closing picnic.*



*Snow bent over this red trillium trying for spring.*

## Thank You To Our Business Members

### **Bath Veterinary Hospital**

[www.bathvethospital.com](http://www.bathvethospital.com)

### **Davidson Shoes, Inc.**

<http://www.shoestoboot.com/>

### **Finger Lakes Runners**

<https://fingerlakesrunners.org/>

### **Goose Adventure Racing**

<http://www.roadsarepoison.com/>

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<http://www.vinehurstinn.com/>

### **Wegmans\***

### **Yellow Jacket Racing**

<http://yellowjacketracing.com/>



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



# Roy and Laurie Dando Walked the Superior Hiking Trail

Roy Dando

Photos by Roy and Laurie Dando

Another gem of a hiking trail we have recently found is the Superior Hiking Trail, now officially part of the North Country National Scenic Trail, thanks to Congress. It runs along the North Shore of Minnesota above the banks of Lake Superior. My wife Laurie and I are avid supporters and frequent hikers on the Finger Lakes Trail in New York, which carries over 400 miles of the North Country Trail. We have backpacked the FLT and also section hiked the entire trail over the past 10 years.

Upon retirement last June we were looking for a different type of physical challenge in a geographic area that was new to us. We recalled that while bicycling around Lake Superior in 2006 we kept seeing signs for the Superior Hiking Trail and thought that one day we might return to tackle it. This was the year and are we happy with our choice of trails!

We chose to start at the southern terminus and generally walk northbound. We decided to do it by day hiking it over 40 days. We would use our truck and motorcycle to shuttle us from trailhead to trailhead. Each hike averaged around eight miles which allowed us lots of time to explore what other gems the North Shore offered.

Our first week centered around the City of Duluth. The Trail route actually meanders through the Canal Park section of the city which we found delightful. On one hike we got to stop at the Canal Park Brewery and have lunch. There are no rules about having a craft beer right in the middle of the hike, are there? There is the three mile lake walk section which comes to an end going through the city's Rose Garden. This is a park that is built on six feet of soil placed on top of the Interstate 35 highway tunnel. Very cool indeed.

As we moved north we were constantly treated to sweeping views of Lake Superior and its coastline. We envisioned this all winter

long as we planned our trip but only being there in person did the scenery justice. There were also many rivers, streams and creeks that flowed into the lake which of course meant waterfalls galore! In the old days of using film in cameras we would have spent hundreds, if not thousands of dollars developing all the pictures.

The Superior Hiking Trail does not have many points of high elevation like some other trails but we did indeed earn our dinner climbing up and down the ravines on the Trail. The trailheads are very well marked with distances to upcoming trailheads, points of interest and bivouacs in both directions. We found that to be extremely helpful. The tread itself is generally very well worn so the need for constant blazing is minimal. On our 310 mile journey we got lost only twice and both times, after MUCH consideration and deliberation, we figured it to be our own fault.

There was the Kadunce River gorge that stands out as something different. The spur trail we took up to the main trail paralleled the river gorge and all the locals we talked to said we should walk up the gorge and skip the spur trail. As we used this spur to start two different segments, we walked the Trail proper once and up the river gorge the other time. What a thrill to rock hop up the gorge and then exit it by "hiking" up an almost vertical embankment. The next day, right near there, the SHT had us hiking 1.5 miles on the beach. This was a very strange but wonderful experience. It was tough to walk on but we did get to skip stones and listen to the lake lap the shores in a way that almost lulled us into an early afternoon nap.

There were also MANY inland lakes and ponds that stood out in our minds as wonderful scenery. As the Trail frequently afforded us views to the west we were treated to panoramas of pristine lakes and untouched wilderness for as far as the eyes could see. It is tough to pick a favorite view but Bean Lake and Bear Lake were two of the nicest we have seen. The hike that day was 17 tough miles with 85 degree humid heat so boy, did we wish the lakes were more than a view!

We did not know what type of wildlife there would be, or how frequently they would bless us with their presence. We had one chance encounter with a black bear while he was feasting on the berries nearby. Once we noticed him we gave him a wide berth but don't think he was really interested in us. We saw many "markings" of the moose

*Bean and Bear Lakes are a favorite sight well below the trail's ridge, and inland from Lake Superior.*

[www.FingerLakesTrail.org](http://www.FingerLakesTrail.org)





population but had the chance only to hear a bull moose looking for a mate in the distance. That wonderful and eerie sound went on for almost an hour during one hike.

Although our hearts and volunteer dedication belong with the Finger Lakes Trail, we **HIGHLY** recommend visiting the North Shore of Minnesota and hiking segments or the entire Superior Hiking Trail.

*Previously published in the North Country Trail Association's magazine, North Star.* 🍁



▲ Sometimes the trail is right on the Lake Superior shoreline.



▲ This fabulously clever staircase helps hikers defy gravity.

► At the northern terminus of the Superior Hiking Trail, Roy looks outward across wilderness, toward the Border Route, still part of the North Country Trail route. The Border Route is a 65-mile long hiking trail that crosses the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the far northeast corner of Minnesota, and follows the international border between Minnesota and Ontario, Canada.





# COMPARING THE FINGER LAKES AND SUPERIOR HIKING TRAILS

Roy Dando

## Similarities:

- 1) Both are hosts to the NCT for 300-400 miles
- 2) Both wind through public and private land
- 3) Both have an amazing diversity of "hiking scenery"
- 4) Both meander through multiple State Parks and State or National Forests.
- 5) Both trail systems try very hard to keep their tread as a single use trail for foot travel only but both have encountered areas where it is not practical to avoid sharing the trail with bikers/horses/snow mobiles/ATVs, etc.
- 6) Both trails seem to have occasional issues with landowner permissions being taken away but the FLT seems to have more trouble with this? *{That is because the FLT has a higher percentage of private land than most other trails. Editor}*
- 7) Both are involved with land trust organizations in their areas to help protect land and the trails for future generations to enjoy.
- 8) Both trails have terminuses on both ends that must be hiked into for different reasons.

## Differences:

- 1) Backcountry camping is generally at bivouac sites on the SHT while the FLT also has some sites where it focuses its backpacker camping around lean-tos.
- 2) FLT has the main trail blazed white with spur trails blazed blue and the SHT is the opposite.
- 3) The FLT has many longer branch trails while the SHT is fairly "linear."
- 4) Although the SHT has some good elevation change on certain segments, the FLT is more mountainous, especially in the east and west.
- 5) The FLT sells Tyvek maps while the SHT sells paper maps.
- 6) The SHT has a guidebook that can be used either in conjunction with the paper maps or simply by itself to help

the hiker navigate the trail. The FLT relies on detailed maps printed on Tyvek that have all pertinent information printed on them and does not offer a guide book. They do offer a "fact" book about what is available to the backpacker.

- 7) The SHT maps don't include many of the roads also in the area of the trail while the FLT does.
- 8) Trailhead signage is much more consistent on the SHT with each direction marked clearly as to how many miles each future waypoint will be while the FLT generally marks their trailheads with simple signage and relies on the maps for the distances to future waypoints.
- 9) The FLT is generally incredibly well blazed (except for the Catskill area.....) While the SHT seems to rely on its "well beaten tread" to tell hikers where to go next. The SHT is careful to direct hikers appropriately when other trails are in the vicinity. *{The SHT was not blazed at all until 2006-7 when one couple contracted with the SHT to blaze the whole thing. Considering that so many of the available trees are aspen, which pops its paint readily, it's amazing that their work lasted so well. The SHT has a program to reblaze the whole trail in 2019. Editor}*
- 10) The FLT has a car-spotter list that allows the hiker a free ride for gas money where, from what we can tell, the SHT does not. We did run into a hiker shuttle with the SHT logo on it but when asked, the driver said, "No, son, this is a business"
- 11) As the North Shore of Minnesota is a fairly condensed area (relative to all of NY State) each mile of the trail tread gets a bit more usage in general. The FLT has its spots where the trail gets used all the time (Tremen, Watkins Glen, etc.) but is more spread out.
- 12) The FLT has the advantage of being able to run its path right through a number of small upstate towns whereas the SHT basically can only say that about the Canal Park area of Duluth. 🍁



Very useful trailhead signs tell us clearly which way to go for what destination, and how far each is from this spot.

Aspen and gray birch line much of the trail, and in this case a yellow birch started life atop the stump of another tree, which grew out from beneath it.





*Many streams descend from inland to the lake's shoreline, and the trail must cross each of them. So much effort by crews has been required to keep bridges intact after storms that the SHT Association is changing its policy, and is NOT replacing those where a hiker can reasonably expect to cross a water on his own in other than flood situations.*

Gift In Memory of

**Lou Lou**

*from*

**Thom & Mary Belasky**

**Thank You**

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

**LANDMAX**

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

## **FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT**

***Saturday, August 3, 2019***

***2019 Ed Sidote Summer Hike***

***Chenango County, Pharsalia Woods***

***FLT Map M23 Rev. 9/17***

### **Hike Leaders:**

Peg Fuller: peg379@gmail.com 315-653-7345 (short hike)  
Marie Inglee: lightgirl54@yahoo.com 607-334-2433  
(long hike)

### **Hike Description:**

The long hike will be approximately 7 miles and the short hike will be approximately 3 miles. The long hike will include pieces of the FLT, small portions of seasonal roads, plus blue-blazed spur trails to complete the loop. Chenango County is known for its hills, but it is ups and downs on well-maintained trails, so the hiking is very enjoyable. Both hikes will stop at the Sidote bench and the Pharsalia (Sandberg) Lean-to. The hikes are loop hikes and no car shuttle is necessary. Bring a lunch, snack, bug spray, sun screen. Sturdy hiking footwear and a hiking stick are recommended.

### **Meeting Time:**

9:00 a.m. Please try to be there and ready to go at this time

### **Meeting Location:**

Both hikes will be starting off on Fred Stewart Rd. East Pharsalia at Hoag Childes Rd.

### **Directions To Meeting Location:**

Fred Stewart Rd and Hoag Childes Rd, East Pharsalia is off of County Rt. 10. This is in Chenango County.

*From Cortland area:* Head toward the east on NY Rt 41S (Rt. 11 and Rt. 41). Turn left onto NY-26 N (1.4 mi). Turn right onto NY-23 E (7.4 mi). Turn right onto County Rd 10 (4.8 mi). Turn left onto Fred Stewart Rd. Follow Fred Stewart Rd to reach Hoag Childes Rd (0.5 mi).

*From Binghamton area:* Take I-81 N to Whitney Point, then NY 26N to Lower Cinn-Cinn Rd; Lower Cinn-Cinn Rd will change names to Lower Cinnatus Rd. (28.6 mi). Take Lower Cinnatus Rd to NY-23 E in Cinnatus (4.6 mi). Turn right onto NY-23 E (7.1 mi). Follow NY 23E to County Rd 10. Follow County Rd 10 to Fred Stewart Rd (5.3 mi). Turn right onto County Rd 10 (4.8 mi). Turn left onto Fred Stewart Rd. Follow Fred Stewart Rd to reach Hoag Childes Rd (0.5 mi).

*From Norwich:* (Chenango Inn/Howard Johnson Hotel – 75 N Broad St, Norwich, NY 13815, back parking lot). Turn left onto Court St (0.2 mi). Turn right onto W Main St (0.3 mi). Continue onto County Rd 10A (5.1 mi). Continue onto County Rd 10 (4.3 mi). Turn right onto Fred Stewart Rd. Follow Fred Stewart Rd to reach Hoag Childes Rd (0.5 mi).



### INTRODUCTION TO TIMBER FRAMING

Workshop at the Finger Lakes Museum July 22-26

Rob Hughes, builder of Timber Frame Lean-tos for the FLTC, will be running an intensive hands-on Timber Framing Workshop again this summer in Branchport. This year's project is a 15-vessel kayak rack for the Museum's paddling programs. No experience necessary and all tools are provided. Registration is through the Finger Lakes Museum webpage [fingerlakesmuseum.org](http://fingerlakesmuseum.org). Join us and learn an ancient craft with modern influences. \$300 fee for the week includes lunch.



*Learn how to create this!*

Rob Hughes

### FLT SPONSORED HIKE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019 CATSKILL LARK IN THE PARK

The annual Catskill Lark in the Park event takes place this year from October 5 to 14. It consists of multiple events like hiking, cycling, paddling, fly fishing, plus cultural activities. This celebration of the Catskill Park brings together folks from across the state to heighten awareness of the Catskill Mountain region.

The FLT will be sponsoring a hiking event for the Lark in the Park on Saturday, October 5, on FLT Map M30. The 8.7 mile long hike will be from Campbell Mtn. Rd. to Holiday & Berry Brook Rd. Full details will be provided in the fall *News Magazine*!

*Larry Blumberg, hike leader for the FLT's Lark in the Park hike ([lblumberg@stny.rr.com](mailto:lblumberg@stny.rr.com)).*



Jacqui Wensich

*Laurel Newman at Split Rock overlook along this hike.*

### BULLTHISTLE FB&J SPAN

Warren Johnsen

Need to share an image of the often overlooked FB&J Span located near the much heralded Rte 23 Bullthistle Bridge, aka *Cirsium Vulgare*.

The FB&J Span (Mike Fuller, Rich Breslin, and Warren Johnsen) was constructed by carpentry novices. In order they had retired from Law Enforcement, a Chenango County Attorney, and a Commercial Lines Underwriter, so carpentry skills were modest.

Truth be told, we were likely asked to build the FB&J Span so we would not be in the way of the main bridge construction...

I am proud to announce that the FB&J Span has weathered another winter...kudos to the novice crew!



Warren Johnsen

*The more famous bridge is in the background, and one must note that Larry Chesboro added the handsome chamfered edge guard to the FB&J span.*

## PROPERTY FOR SALE on Map B3, south of Prattsburgh

Owners are putting the property up for sale, after approving a trail easement in order to protect our route. We appreciate this easement from Meghan Terry and her husband Scott Griswold.

24 wooded acres, part of an old family farm from 1835 to the 1950s, then subdivided into lots like this one. 1960 Champion trailer with additions, wood stove, gas heat, full electric service, kitchen, and bath, two separate sheds. Inquiries to Meghan by phone or email: 585/671-5008 or msgrisbiz@gmail.com



Meghan Terry

## JUNIOR BULLTHISTLES

The Bullthistle Club honored two new trail workers with Certificates of Appreciation at a recent meeting, plus they were given Bullthistle hats and patches. Elias (left) and Jaxson Francis are pictured with their grandfather, David Francis, who took them with him while he was picking up his trail section. Their mother, Vanessa Francis, said, "That was real great what you did for the boys. It means a lot to them now, and later in life they'll realize the benefits of volunteering. Thank you."



Vanessa Francis

## PASSAGES

Bob Schmidt passed away this winter; he had been active hiker and hike leader for Foothills Trail Club, and maintained a section of the Conservation Trail on Map M3. However, since he lived in Lockport, that drive became too much so he took over a section on Map CT8.

Mary Zuk Domanski remembers that Bob along with Gil Fix and her hiked many miles of the FLT together. "The three of us completed the trail together. Archangel Ed Sidote came to congratulate us in Watkins Glen. I brought the plastic cups and we toasted with warm champagne. Bob was an amazing hiker. Even though he had a hip replacement, he could climb hills like nobody's business. Bob also hiked many sections of the Appalachian Trail with me."

[www.FingerLakesTrail.org](http://www.FingerLakesTrail.org)

## NEWS FROM THE FINGER LAKES TRAIL OFFICE

Have you returned from your winter residence? If so, have you notified the office of an address change? Please make sure you do so. We want to make sure you receive mailings.

When you come to the Finger Lakes Trail Office there is a sign directing you to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference building. When you leave the office, you need to exit that way also. Make sure you do not exit or enter where there are signs stating **Restricted: Authorized Vehicles Only**. These signs are in place for the protection of the Mt. Morris Dam employees and the visitors touring the Dam. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference now offers for sale Anvil khaki color, hats with a buckle closure in the back and the FLT Logo embroidered on the front. The hats are priced at \$20.00 each. We also have Silver Sport Tek ladies T-shirts (small, medium, large and extra-large) and Silver Sport Tek men's T-Shirts (medium, large and extra-large). The shirts have the NYS State map on the front showing the Finger Lakes Trail, a hiker and the FLT Logo. The T-Shirts are priced at \$20.00 each. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, the hats and shirts will be on the website for purchase.

Reminder – renew your FLT membership now for the 4/1/2019-3/31/2020 membership period. You can renew on-line at [www.FingerLakesTrail.org](http://www.FingerLakesTrail.org).

Membership rocker patches. If you are an FLT member of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50 years or a life member, you can receive a free year rocker patch. Contact the office at 585-658-9320 to get yours today.



Khaki

The Supplier





## Answers to the Spring 2019 “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](mailto:jwensich@rochester.rr.com)

### Previous Location:



Photo by Ross Creagan 12-21-18  
M-15, access point 4 at Satterley Hill Rd.

There were no correct guesses. I think this is a fairly new scene.

### New Picture:



## New FLT Members

Lisa Abell  
Christopher Allen  
Bill Bancroft  
Martin Cain  
Patrick Chapman  
Jean Cimorelli  
Jeanine Cleary  
Karen Daniels  
Charles Deck  
Melissa DeKay  
Shannon Delaney  
Dawn Devita  
Steve & Karen Ellsworth  
Beth Erviti  
William French  
Sheryl Galutia  
Jennifer Gilbert  
Carson Gurley  
Robert Halpin  
The Halpin Firm  
David Harges  
Jessica Heller  
Grace Holmes  
Melissa Holt  
Terrance Holt  
Annie Hood  
Pepacton Cabins

Owego  
Marietta  
Stormville  
Syracuse  
Wyalusing Pa.  
Montgomery  
Horseheads  
Olean  
Ferdale  
Sayre Pa  
Marcellus  
Binghamton  
Oxford  
Wendell Mass.  
North Chilli  
Wellsville  
Wolcott  
New York  
Montour Falls  
Watkins Glen  
Oneonta  
Norwich  
Baldwinsville  
Auburn  
Downsville

Paula Howard  
Auralee Jefferds  
Paul Jordan  
Andrew Kelder  
Mary Krywe  
Joseph & Norma Kurtz  
Beth Lalonde  
Richard Lazarus  
Bennett Leff  
Randy & Janet Lehman  
Patricia Marsh  
Nicole Mason  
David McMillian  
Carley Mealey  
Heike Michelsen  
Tracy Mitrano  
Susanna Morrow  
Margaret Northfield  
Zachary Norwood  
Lisa Oun  
Jasmine Paxer  
Hillary Perez  
Geoff Peters  
Armi Pigott  
Eric Pritz  
Jennifer Reidy

Sherburne  
Arkport  
Hammondsport  
Halcott Center  
Arkport  
Candor  
Ithaca  
Spencer  
Corning  
Asheville NC  
Albany  
Bridgeport  
Bath  
Buffalo  
Ithaca  
Penn Yan  
Binghamton  
Niagara on the Lakes  
Ontario, Canada  
Ithaca  
South Wales  
Gardiner  
Rochester  
Fairport  
Milwaukee Wisc  
Ithaca  
Larchmont

Chuck & Sally Reppard  
Mary Schmelzer  
Chelsea Sheridan  
Barbara Small  
Sheila Squier  
Alyxandra Stanczak  
Kathryn Tsoukatos  
Elizabeth Wheeler  
Lawrence Willoughby  
Jodie Wilson  
Jennifer Yates  
Eric Yetter  
BSA TRP 32/PK 1023  
Randy Heard

Greene  
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Cassville  
Greene  
Ithaca  
Penn Yan  
Holley  
Webster  
Livonia  
Syracuse  
Naples  
Owego  
Avoca

### New Life Member

**Nancy Crowley**  
Middlesex, New York

## Finger Lakes Trail 2019 Calendar of Events

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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
August 3 .....	Ed Sidote Hike, Map M23. See page 35.
September 20-22 .....	Fall Weekend, hosted by Bullthistle Hiking Club, in conjunction with final Chenango County Hike
September 22 .....	Board Meeting
October 12.....	Erv Markert Hike of 8 miles on the Abbott Loop, South of Ithaca, details forthcoming - Kristinhiker@yahoo.com 607/321-5754
November 15-17 .....	Annual Board Retreat at Letchworth Conference Center

**Quinn Wright**  
*Executive Director*  
qwright@fingerlakestrail.org

**Debbie Hunt**  
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### Shindagin Hollow Home

On Map M18, in Shindagin Hollow State Forest between Shindagin Hollow Rd. and the “jeep trail” to its west. Imagine this forest all cleared for a farm and home, quite a while ago.

Photo by Jacqui Wensich

