

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Summer 2020



Inside...

- * Trail Runners hold event in Frozen February
- * FLT50 Announcement
- * Trail Improvements

FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE

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!



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SUMMER 2020



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Finger Lakes Trail News, Spring Issue, Volume 59, Issue Number 2, is the official publication of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc., a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, 6111 Visitor Center Road, Mt. Morris, NY 14510. The *Finger Lakes Trail News* is published four times a year for promotional and entertainment purposes, as well as a benefit for its members. Comments and original contributions are welcome and may be submitted to the editor. Copyright © 2020 by Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc.

ABOUT THE COVER:

The Betrus family adopted a campsite to improve while both parents and children were out of school, Connor left and father Jon right.

Photo by Colleen Betrus

President's Message

Pat Monahan



Today is April 29, 2020. I am writing this from my makeshift office (kitchen table) looking at my rhododendron which refuses to bloom. This is week 7 of stay-at-home orders in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are beginning to “flatten the curve,” as Governor Cuomo refers to it in his daily briefings. As the State considers reopening on a regional basis, all of us still look to the future with uncertainty and hope. When you read this in the summer, I am convinced that the world as we know it will be a different place even for hikers and trail users. I trust that our membership will continue to be respectful of our landowners and any new guidelines we issue to enjoy the FLT.

As I prepare to write each President's message, I normally review my previous messages from that time of year to see what topics I have already addressed. My messages go back to 2009, but I am going off script for this issue since we have never had a pandemic crisis influence the FLT before. These have truly been unprecedented times.

- Many FLT events have been cancelled or postponed. The Annual Membership Meeting, normally scheduled during Spring Weekend, has been rescheduled to an on-line format on September 12. Details to follow.
- Our membership appeal was mailed later than usual, in mid-April. I hope you are able to renew your membership and make a donation if possible.
- The Finance Committee has continually reviewed our financials through this crisis. Many budget lines have been impacted by cancelling events, but most of these represent “money in, money out;” i.e. cancellation of Cross County Hike Series, Spring Conference, etc.. cause little concern for our bottom line. However, if there is a dip in membership renewals and donations, it will have a negative effect on the budget. Again, I encourage you to renew your membership today.
- Trail Days in Steuben County, which we launched in 2019, has been postponed until 2021. We are excited about moving to a new venue. Stay tuned for details early in 2021.
- Regular spring trail maintenance may not occur until later in the summer, and most Alley Cat projects have been rescheduled or postponed to 2021. Continue to report any issues. Please be patient as the trail maintainers catch up with their work.

Even though some popular FLT events and activities were rescheduled, the FLT has remained open, and we have continued to encourage its safe and responsible use. Many of you joined the FLT50, our virtual challenge, and we have enjoyed hearing about your adventures on social media.

As the summer heats up, I hope you will find time to explore the FLT or other trails near you. Get out there to bird, to hike or run, to geocache or capture a video clip of the trail for a ZOOM meeting.



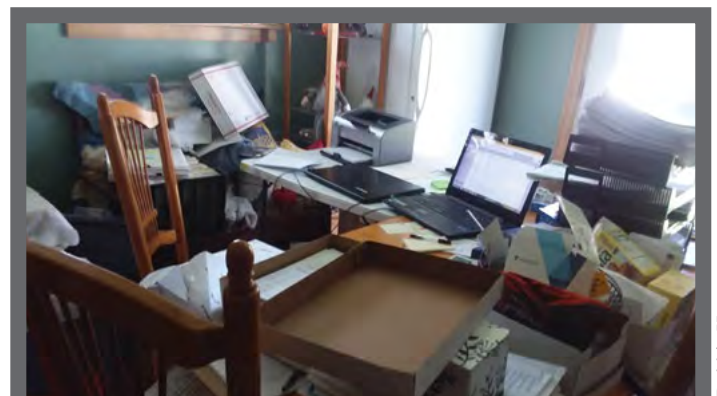
Tony Rodriguez

Whatever you decide to do, and whatever distance we might have to keep through the end of the year, I encourage you to

“Go take a hike!!”

A special note to our landowners:

The FLT is available to the public at no cost to enjoy the beauty of the land. I've heard it called forest bathing. More than ever, you help the FLT keep true to its mission for a “continuous footpath across New York State.” On behalf of all trail users, I would like to personally thank you for hosting the FLT on your property. It may seem like a small thing to give permission to walk on your property, but you connect the dots between public lands. I anticipate an uptick in trail use when we are ready to reopen the state from this pandemic crisis. Maybe we can no longer offer a handshake but certainly the words that we communicate demonstrate our appreciation. Thank you. 🍁



Debbie Hunt

A spot in poor Debbie's home where the FLT office is currently muddling along.

Understanding "Adventure" on the FLT

Adam Ross



Why does adventure appeal to us? To engaged members of North American society, it doesn't seem to me like it should. In my experience, I have been taught to prioritize safety, companionship, daily structure, and hygiene and have seen the benefits of all these things. Still, I have always been enchanted by stories involving travelers who deny themselves these comforts in order to find hidden treasure, prove their allegiance to their gods, rescue princesses, or exonerate their families. As I went on day hikes in the Hudson Valley as a kid, I likened all of the Appalachian Trail thru-hikers, as they took the green tunnel across the mountains to get from Georgia to Maine, to all of the fictional adventurers whom I admired, and aspired to join them one day.

As I grew older, the opportunity to go on one of these adventures floated closer and closer into view. I had gained lots of camping knowledge from being a Boy Scout and four years of training with my Cross-Country team put me in physical shape to hike many days in a row. Once I turned eighteen, I discussed the idea of going backpacking on my own with my parents, and did research to find where I would go. I envisioned my adventure as passing through meadows where the rugged hills in the distance match the contours on my map and show me my direction; crossing through massive swaths of forest cut up by cool, rushing streams; brushing the dust off my clothes before going into small-town taverns for some warm food; watching the evening sun sparkle and the fish jump across the surfaces of gentle lakes. It was clear; I needed to go to *The Wild West!*-ern part of New York State, so I chose the Finger Lakes Trail. On July 31st 2019, I set out on my own from Robert Treman State Park to embark on my 350 mile journey to Allegany State Park.

My first day in, I walked up the stone stairway parallel to the Lucifer Falls and learned why Ithaca is gorgeous, then exited the park on the Finger Lakes Trail. I had my first lunch of peanut butter and dried cherries on a tortilla while sitting at the side of a road and looking out at the tree covered hills that rose in front of me. After lunch, I entered my first patch of hemlocks and saw how the high canopy blocks the sunlight from the ground, and the low lying branches don't sprout needles. As the sun set and I made it to my bivouac campsite, I was faced with the first of many nights alone in the woods. Despite having been assured by every backpacker I had talked to that I would be safe, having never been the only person at a primitive campsite I was afraid that something would happen to me and there would be no one there to get help. But I ate dinner and placed my bear bag 300 steps away from where I set up my tent, and the sunlight shining through the woods woke me up the next morning and showed me that I was still alive.

Over the next month I was chased by dogs, I picked blackberries, I woke up with the sun, I saw owls and herons, I followed dirt roads to trailheads and paved county roads into towns that I had recently found out existed, and I developed a strong taste for stream water and oatmeal-protein powder sludge. As I was going, I compared the reality with the expectation of my adventure. I knew my reality checked off a lot of the boxes that I thought made things "adventures," but the real experience felt much more familiar than the way people in literature experience adventures, like any walk I go on in the woods, but much longer and more solitary. What made my real adventure experience so different from the way I pictured? I wrestled with that question for weeks after I returned home.



Photo taken by Bystander

I woke up early Friday morning at a campground in Allegany State Park, took a taxi cab from my campground to the bus station in Olean, bought a bus ticket from Olean to New York City leaving at 9:45 a.m., and made it back to Penn Station at 6:30 p.m. Look at the poster I saw when I got off the bus! (Advertising Allegany State Park)

After months of reflection, the best answer I can give is the difference in timing between a story and an experience. Stories make adventures seem more exciting, because adventures take a long time, and stories speed up time. Stories summarize the events in an adventure, only pointing out the details that are "exciting." Some suspenseful things can happen in a real adventure, but they are likely spaced out between days of exploration. On the other hand, constantly exploring new places and having chances to see vistas of landscapes that I had never seen before made me happy all the time, completely outweighing the loneliness, bad sleep, bland diet, and temperamental weather that I experienced.

The adventurous aspects of my trip were less exotic than the stories I can tell about it make them seem, but my experience was remarkable in ways that I did not expect. The chance to experience days of solo exploration through a part of my home state to which I had never been let me learn what draws real people to go on adventures. I learned to appreciate the excitement of spending each day walking a new stretch of trail, and seeing a new place. Some "exciting" things did happen, but my most cherished memories are comprised of experiences sitting by gorges and on hilltops observing my surroundings. Good times might not make good stories, but a 350 mile trek gives a person a chance to become attuned to the sublime qualities of the forest and be constantly amazed by them. The enjoyment in going on an adventure is entirely different from the experience implied from reading most adventure novels, and backpacking solo on the Finger Lakes Trail made me understand and experience the introspective peace that keeps adventurers and backpackers coming back for more. 🍁



Photo taken by Bystander

Adam at Red House Lake in Allegany S.P.

Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright



The FLTC cannot have grown or continue to exist without the very vital core of the Trail Management Team that tends the Finger Lakes Trail – **its trail maintainers!** How can those of us who use the trail show our appreciation?

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference currently shows its appreciation by:

- Reducing maintainer's FLTC membership cost by fifty percent if requested.
- Providing accident insurance. *See the article about insurance on page 11.*

What else can be done by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference to show appreciation?

- Recognize volunteers publicly on a regular basis. *See the article about awards on page 24.*

What else can be done by users of the FLT to show appreciation?

- Donate to the FLTC so that it has the resources to support these maintainers.
- Volunteer to help maintainers do routine maintenance on their sections.
- Volunteer to help on major projects.
- Volunteer to become a certified sawyer. The FLTC funds two training classes annually.
- Post thank you notes on Social Media, in trail registers, on the FLT website.

What can the maintainers do to help the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, trail users, donors, grant sources and the IRS recognize the maintainers' incredible work?

- Regularly maintain the trail
- Annually report their volunteer hours – grant **funding** and the FLTC's **not-for-profit** status are easier to maintain the greater the number of hours. *Annually the FLTC volunteer hours exceed 20,000, and that is without everyone reporting. We need everyone to report!* 🍁



Jewell Wright

Quinn and Blizzard

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Eric Eagan

A horde of trail racers ready to do maintenance on the Letchworth Trail last year.



Gloria Potzler

Newer DR mower, being run by Dave Potzler.

Trail Runners Improve Health of Trail

Jeff Darling



Twisted Branch Trail Run measures its success, in part, by the health of the trail. To fulfill this commitment in 2019, runners who completed trail maintenance on the Finger Lakes Trail received a discount on race registration. Numerous runners and their families pitched in to help build, repair and maintain the Bristol Hills Trail of the FLT System. The bulk of the work was concentrated on three areas.

Boardwalk Repair

One of the areas in need of attention was a boardwalk just north of Ford Road on Map B2. The boardwalk has held up well over the years. Though few boards had come loose, not all of the bases were level and the ends were overgrown and muddy. Lush vegetation required trimming multiple times each year. Various types of temporary wooden structures had been utilized to cross the wet ground on both ends.

New construction was considered to replace the deteriorating extensions of the boardwalk. Instead, we decided to repurpose a section of deck that was slated for removal. Three pieces were able to be salvaged. Then we tried to lift one. Bad idea. Our two-man demolition crew did not have the fortitude to get it out of the backyard. Once the planks were removed, the frames were manageable and all was loaded into the bed of a borrowed pickup truck.



Jeff Darling

Mike Mendassy in foreground carries bridge planks during boardwalk reconstruction.

Once on location, two people worked to clear overhanging branches and brush. Another two people leveled the original boardwalk and prepared the site for the three new sections. The remaining four made numerous trips to transport the lumber 500 meters in from Ford Road.

After a three-hour workday, we were able to level the existing structure, add 33 feet of boardwalk, as well as increase sun exposure and airflow. The approaches are much improved and hopefully this proactive fix will enhance the trail as well as save on future maintenance.

Installing a Rolling Grade Dip

Another project addressed a perennial wet area just south of Tuttle Road, also on Map B2. This section was wet and slippery in all seasons. We noticed that the trail crossed a drainage by climbing uphill. This led to water flowing downhill on the trail, in both directions.



Scott Magee

Near Ford Rd. is the restored boardwalk..

The area had two obstacles that increased the level of difficulty. The first was the soil composition of the site. The prevailing pocket of clay prevents water from permeating. Rather, it spreads out in sheets across the surrounding landscape. A channel was dug to consolidate and divert the water across the trail and down the hill.

The dominant plant at the site was multiflora rose. Few plants strike fear into the hearts of trail workers like multiflora rose. The roses were pulled up by their roots on either side of the trail. This proactive step will hopefully reduce the need for future pruning and help dry the trail with improved sunlight and airflow.

Finally, the trail was moved. The trail tread now descends into the drainage on a downhill grade. We essentially inserted a downhill dip where the trail meets the water. Now the water continues flowing perpendicular to the trail, instead of parallel and on the trail.

Getting Off the Road

A recent change in landowners on Map B3 led to a lengthy road walk along County Road 75 over to Williams Road. After talking with several landowners, Regional Coordinator Donna Noteware was able to secure a new route.

A dozen volunteers worked up and over the hill, across three properties in order to eliminate 0.7 mile of road and establish a trail tread and corridor through the forest. Tasks included clearing brush, raking duff and grading road crossings. They made quick work of it. Peanut Butter cookies and peaches were enjoyed by all at the work's conclusion.

All three work days were successful on multiple levels. Obviously, the physical trail was improved. More importantly, people felt a connection to the trail. Everyone involved felt satisfaction after accomplishing a significant project in a relatively short amount of time. Our shared efforts yielded a sense of purpose and a sense of pride. Perhaps this is another way to measure the health of the trail. The Finger Lakes Trail's health is more than a

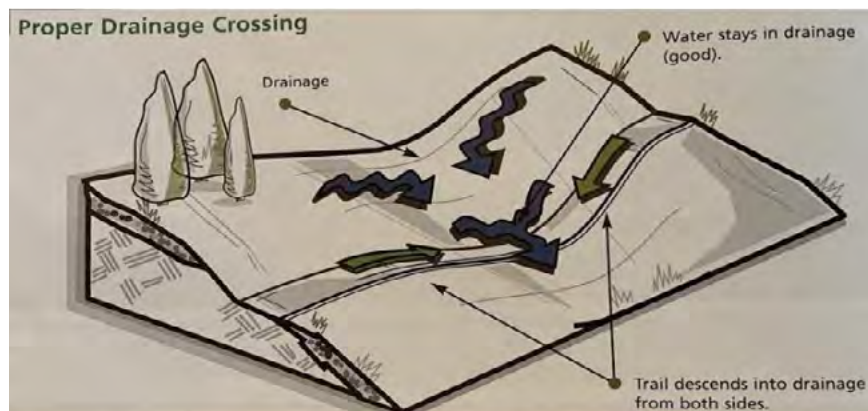


Jeff Darling

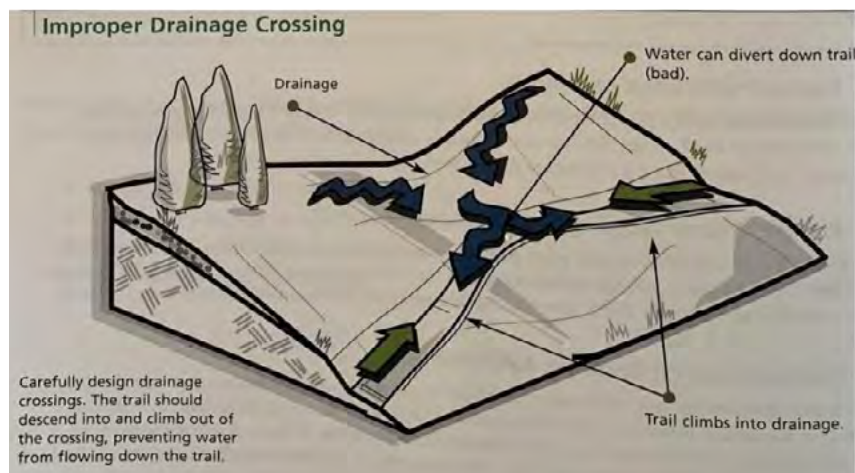
Trail runner volunteers create a new path for water drainage, in order to keep it from running down the trail itself.

well laid out and maintained trail. A healthy trail is a symptom of a healthy community, working together towards common goals.

Twisted Branch Trail Run continues to advocate for the stewardship of the FLT. Several projects are in the works for 2020, pandemic pending. Runners are now required to complete four hours of trail work prior to participation in the 100K race. We're hopeful that this helps more trail users feel a sense of ownership in their local trail networks and the Finger Lakes Trail. 🍁



IMBA Trail Solutions, 2004



IMBA Trail Solutions, 2004

A Very Different Year

Christy Post, Marketing and Communications



Like so many businesses and organizations, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference has had to make a lot of changes to our plans this year. All of our traditional and time-honored events and activities were cancelled, rescheduled or postponed, and we have had to think creatively about ways to engage with our membership in the absence of group hikes and activities.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic we launched a new challenge, the FLT50, which had nearly 700 participants as of the end of May. Information about the challenge is on our website and is written about elsewhere in this magazine. We hope you will register and look at it as a way to join others on the trail this year.

We hope to create some other exciting opportunities to connect in the coming months, including online presentations and workshops, so please watch your email for more information and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram if you don't already.

We always look forward to the County Hike Series, Spring and Fall Weekends, and our Annual Meeting as times to connect with old friends. We are missing you this year. We wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who worked so hard to plan these events, and then worked hard to change those plans for the health and safety of our membership.

Originally scheduled for June 12-14 at Houghton College, **Spring Weekend** was cancelled for 2020. Thanks to the Genesee Valley Hiking Club and the Foothills Trail Club—and to Ann Bayley and Donna Flood as chief planners for each organization, respectively—for all their work on this event, and Peg Fuller, as Board Program Chair, for shepherding their work. We will share details for 2021 as soon as we have them.

Our popular **Cross-County Hike Series** was scheduled to take place in Cortland County this year, beginning in April. County Hike Coordinator Sigi Schwinge put in many hours of work planning hikes and making arrangements for hike leaders and support personnel, and was deeply saddened when the series was cancelled.

The County Hike Series was to end at **Fall Weekend**, which was scheduled this year to take place September 11-13 at Greek Peak Mountain Resort. The full weekend was being planned by the Bullthistle Hiking Club, led by Peg Fuller, and we appreciate so much all the hard work they put in. As of mere weeks ago, this page WAS about the upcoming Fall Weekend.

All of these programs fall under the responsibility of FLTC Board Member and Program Chairperson, Peg Fuller. New to that role this year, Peg has done an amazing job planning and coordinating these time-honored events for the first time. Peg responded quickly and proactively to COVID-19, and has been working hard to ensure that when we are able to host these events in 2021, they will be worth the wait.

Last year we were excited to launch a new **Trail Days** event in partnership with the Steuben County Visitor's Bureau. Before the pandemic and for multiple reasons we decided not to hold the event in 2020. We are currently working on a date and location for 2021 so stay tuned for that. We want to thank the entire Trail Days committee for their hard work, and Kevin Costello at the Steuben County Visitors Bureau for his ongoing support.

We'd also like to thank a few very important people who play huge roles behind-the-scenes for all FLTC events. FLTC's Office Manager Debbie Hunt coordinates logistics and handles registrations and payments. When New York State went On Pause, Debbie did not. She took her work home and has been maintaining all of the administrative functions of the FLTC from there. On top of that she's staying on top of extra map sales for all the people who are discovering the FLT during lockdown. We cannot thank Debbie enough for her tireless work.

We'd also like to thank Roger Hopkins, who helps set up online registration for all our events, and Scott Geiger, who has helped with an endless stream of updates to our website related to COVID-19. We have tried to keep our membership fully informed as we responded to each stage of this crisis, and we couldn't have done that without Scott's and Roger's help.

Please note that our Annual Meeting, which usually takes place during Spring Weekend and was postponed this year to Fall Weekend, will be held as a Zoom meeting this year on Saturday, September 12. You will receive more information about this soon, including information on how to vote for new Board Members and other matters by proxy if you are unable to attend.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in these strange and difficult times. We hope to have the opportunity to connect with you at group hikes, events, and activities in 2021. Until then, stay safe and well! 🍁



Irene Szabo

CANCELLED. Greek Peak ski slopes amidst a riot of autumn's maples. Our trail, at the top of that hill, will still be there for our enjoyment, but the fall weekend is cancelled for now.

Julian Shepherd - 40 Years on the FLT

Julian Shepherd



When I took over sponsorship of a seven mile section of trail on FLT Map M25 in eastern Chenango County outside of Bainbridge, I was so excited I charged up there to take a look. I walked around sloshing through meltwater -- a lot of unmelted snow. This was April 1978 and I had just inherited it from Larry Blumberg and Mort Goldberg.

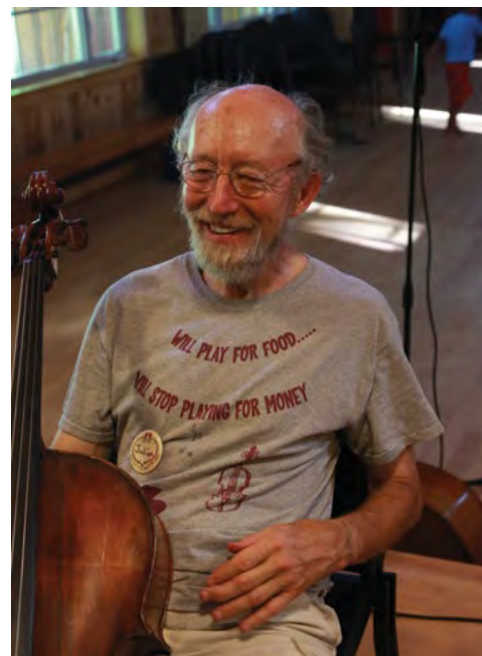
I was enthused (and have been ever since) that the section had some fine mature woods and an abundance of forest warbler species (I counted up to 12) that occur in such older forests. The most interesting part was a genuine bog pond, that had pitcher plants, bogbean, and a stand of native rhododendrons, all of which are scarce around here, especially the last at the northern end of its range. It was also fascinating and initially dismaying to see what beavers did when they moved in after a 100+ year absence. They built a 4-foot dam that flooded and killed the surrounding old hemlock swamp including the rhododendrons, but the central bog just floated up and survived since it wasn't anchored.

Over the years, I've largely tended it on my own with occasional help from Larry, Tony Preus, Fred Getz, critical pointers(!), Ed Sidote, and many others. A crew including the indomitable Fessy Washburn helped me once, and I remember her especially on the return road-walk, characteristically striding out a quarter mile down the road ahead of the rest of us. On another occasion, we lost our TCHC Trails Chair Betty Titus (how did that happen??); some genius suggested we look for her around all the local roads and after the better part of an hour we found her, begging for a lift.

Although much of the section is on State forest land and well-regulated when cut, I ran into the usual problems with logging on private land. On one occasion I had fun playing pioneer and rerouting 1/2 mile of trail to get around the worst of the damage, although (I assured my trail captains) the new part was still within a few hundred feet of the original path.

My favorite activity (sort of activity!) was sitting and eating lunch in an old CCC plantation of Norway Spruce on the Trail, surrounded by a lawn of blooming Canada mayflowers, starflowers, and scattered lady's slipper orchids, serenaded by Blackburnian warblers and golden-crowned kinglets.

A few years ago, Chris Rounds offered to take over 60% of the seven mile section that I had been maintaining. That turned out to be foresightful as just this year I finally had to pass it all on as I became somewhat disabled. 🍁



Stewart Dean

Editor's note – Julian Shepherd is an Associate Professor in Biological Sciences at Binghamton University in Binghamton. His research interests include moths, ticks, and mosquitoes. You may have run across Julian in past years leading early Sunday morning nature walks at FLT weekend conferences. We can think of a handful of trail care volunteers who have stayed with the job for thirty years and more, but Julian's 40-year stretch is rare!

NEW TIMES FOR THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

On May 9th your Board had a productive meeting without driving to get there! As you can see, almost everybody has a zoom-enabled computer by now, with headset and camera, so they could look at one another while holding discussions.

Me, I might not plug in the camera, since I've needed a hair-cut since March 14th! (your currently ugly editor)



Trail Topics: Trail Maintenance

Jon Bowen, VP of Trail Maintenance



I'm writing this column at the end of April and we are still on New York State Pause. I hope when you read this, we'll be in a better place with more activity and open businesses. Locally, there are many people walking in our parks, but I haven't met anyone on the FLT recently. Once a week we drive 4 hours round trip either to the east or to the west to hike on the FLT. I have about 60 miles left to complete a second end-to-end. One of our recent hikes was between Howard and Bath. Most of the trail was well blazed but I did run into a section where blazing was sparse. The ground is covered with dry leaves and since it's early in the season, no one has cleared all the down branches. Without visible blazes, I had to stop several times to try to find the trail. So, just a reminder, **a hiker should be able to see at least one blaze at all times**. I know hikers on other sections of trail have had the same problem.

At the last FLTC board meeting a motion was made to establish an equipment fund. The idea was presented by Peter Wybron, our Quartermaster. We own a decrepit ATV as well as some other worn out items. We are very much in need of an ATV and trailer to haul construction items for building and repairing lean-tos. Some of our DR Mowers will also need updating. Shortly you will be invited to donate to this fund. As of today, there is at least \$1000 in the fund.

The trail is constantly changing. **Be sure to check the Trail Conditions Notices prior to heading out to the FLT.** In April alone there were changes on the Onondaga Trail (Loss of landowner), Bristol Hills Trail (Logging closure), Main Trail (Construction projects, see below).

The following has been repeatedly posted:

Please have all of your volunteers use social distancing. Please follow the latest guidance from the CDC or NYSDOH on size of groups(<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>). As you all know there are many projects volunteers can do, like brushing a trail and water bar cleaning that don't require groups or close contact with work parties. These activities can continue. Then there are projects that require volunteers to work with others in closer contact with each other (bridge and lean-to maintenance or rehabilitations). Please hold off on these projects until the health experts advise us that we no longer need to maintain a social distance.

If the trail is busy and has many recreational users on it volunteers should stop working and come back another day, so we can protect everyone.

From Marty Howden: Both **chainsaw classes** are full, but perhaps a reminder will help that the dates are May 23 & 24 and June 6 & 7 at Birdseye Hollow. I have a list of folks who are interested in taking the class, but not enough for a third class. So if some are interested I can take their names and then find out if we can add another class. Howser51@yahoo.com

Marty Howden

Regional Trail Coordinator West of Genesee River - I need a trail

sponsor for the section on Map M4 from the junction with the Conservation Trail east to the edge of the Cobb property. Here is a description from our retiring sponsor, Ken Shaw.

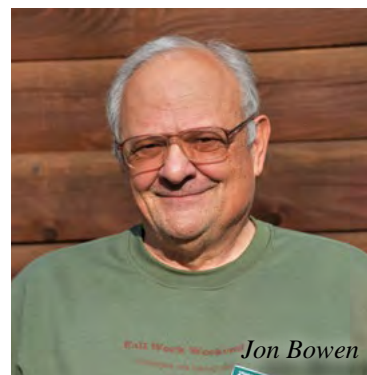
"This section of trail, approximately 3.6 miles, begins at the junction with the orange blazed Conservation Trail. It gradually winds upward through the woods for about 1/3 mile then comes out on an old logging road. The trail then climbs steeply up to a field which needs mowing before re-entering the woods. It gradually descends for about another 1/3 mile through these woods till exiting on a stretch of field that needs to be mowed (about 600 feet) to South Canada Hill Rd which becomes Fancy Tract Rd. About 1/2 mile south down the road the trail re-enters the woods on the left. These woods are flat after the initial hike into them. It travels past a couple old logging roads that need some mowing by mid-summer. I've had luck cutting through these with an electric weed wacker. Then there is a significant patch of thorny blackberry that needs taming in the spring. The section ends at the Cobb property line. Since both ends of the trail are mid-woods, you need to park, hike in to do the maintenance then hike back out. Contact Marty Howden at Howser51@yahoo.com to offer to adopt this trail segment."

Peter Wybron M7-M11 RTC

Looking for a trail maintainer to help out on the Robinson Blue Loop Trail on map M8 in Swain. This section of trail includes woods and open fields so I am looking for someone who is willing and able to mow the field sections 2 or 3 times a year with the FLTC DR Mower. The mower is stored on a trailer at the Mt Morris Office so this would require towing a small utility trailer. Contact Peter Wybron, Regional Trail Coordinator at 585-243-5351 or email prwybron@rochester.rr.com

Welcome to Herb Barber as a new member of the FLTC and also a new maintainer for a section of trail on Map M11 from AP2 to AP3. Herb will take over for long time maintainer Gary Haff. Gary moved out of the area so he could no longer care for that section. Thank you Gary for your many years as a volunteer maintainer for the FLT, and welcome Herb.

Map M-10 Update: On or about May 1, 2020, there will be a major update published for FLT Map M10 due to two construction projects in the area. This update will remain in effect for about a year (more or less). The first construction will be a bridge project on Webbs Crossing Rd. (CR66). The bridge will be closed to all traffic on May 4, 2020. The parking area at the intersection of CR66 and the FLT (Shawmut Hiking & Biking Trail) will remain open and will be shown on the



Jon Bowen
Jet Thomas

...continued on page 13

www.FingerLakesTrail.org

Trail Topics: Trail Quality

Quinn Wright with Lynda Rummel, VP for Trail Quality



Volunteers working on the trail are protected if they have an accident.

What does that mean?

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference has stepped in to fill a gap in the insurance protection provided to its trail workers. Until now, volunteer trail workers were eligible to apply for Workers' Comp only when the injury occurred where the North Country National Scenic Trail is hosted by the FLT or when the injury occurred on DEC-managed land. Now there's coverage all across the FLT System.

However, volunteers injured while working on the Finger Lakes Trail System are protected **only if they have completed the required paperwork**. And depending upon where you are working, certain specific paperwork is required.

What's involved?

Here are the steps you will need to take before heading out to work on the trail:

If you are:

- Volunteering to work anywhere on the FLT system, you **MUST** complete the FLTC Trail Maintainer Registration form, available on the FLTC website. If you have not completed this form, you have NO coverage of any kind, even if you are working with your hiking club.
- Volunteering on **an occasional basis** such as an Alley Cat project, or helping a section trail maintainer, you must complete the paperwork applicable to that section of trail. The forms are online.
- **If you are working on the North Country Trail part of the FLT System**, then you must be registered with the FLTC. The FLTC submits the U.S. Department of Labor Workers' Compensation form for the organization, and that covers anyone who works as a volunteer on Maps M1 – M21, the Onondaga Branch and the Finger Lakes National Forest. If you have not completed the FLTC Trail Maintainer Registration form, you are not covered. **The form has no expiration date**; however, if the form itself changes, then the FLTC must re-submit.
- Routinely working on a specific NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) property, you are covered by NYS Workers' Compensation if you have completed the **DEC Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA) Form** that applies to that area, in addition to the FLTC Trail Maintainer Registration form. **This DEC VSA form has no expiration unless your personal information changes**. The FLTC office will send a copy of the completed form to the specific regional office that oversees where the work occurs. This form is available from the FLTC Office.
- Routinely working on NYS Parks property, you are covered by NYS Workers' Compensation if you have completed the **Parks' Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA) Form** that applies to that area, in addition to the FLTC Trail Main-

tainer Registration form. Note: **The OPRHP VSA form is available on the FLTC website and must be completed annually.** (OPRHP = Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation)

- If you will be driving on DEC or OPRHP property, you must supply a copy of your Driver's License. Your coverage even applies to your travel to and from the work area as long as you have notified the FLTC office of the day you intend to work and when you have completed the work, or are working on a project such as an Alley Cat that has a project manager.
- **And now**, if you are working anywhere on the Finger Lakes Trail system you are covered by **the Finger Lakes Trail Accident Insurance Policy**. **However**, this coverage applies only (as you might guess by now) if you have filled out the FLTC Trail Maintainer Registration Form and, very importantly, only if you have notified the FLTC office by phone (leaving a voicemail message counts) or email of the day you plan to work and the location (for example, map number and between what access points) of the work. When you have completed the work you also need to advise the office by phone or email.

That is a lot of accident coverage!

How do you obtain coverage for your injury costs?

- If you were injured while working anywhere on the Finger Lakes Trail where the North Country National Scenic Trail is hosted, you can file a claim for Workmen's Compensation with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL).
- If you were working anywhere on the Finger Lakes Trail system that is on NYS property, you can file a Workmen's Compensation claim with the NYS Department of Labor (NYSDOL).
- If you were working anywhere on the Finger Lakes Trail system and are not in an area that provides Workmen's Compensation through the USDOL or NYSDOL, then you file a claim through the FLTC Insurance accident policy. 🍁



Ed O'Shea

A two-man saw in operation.

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

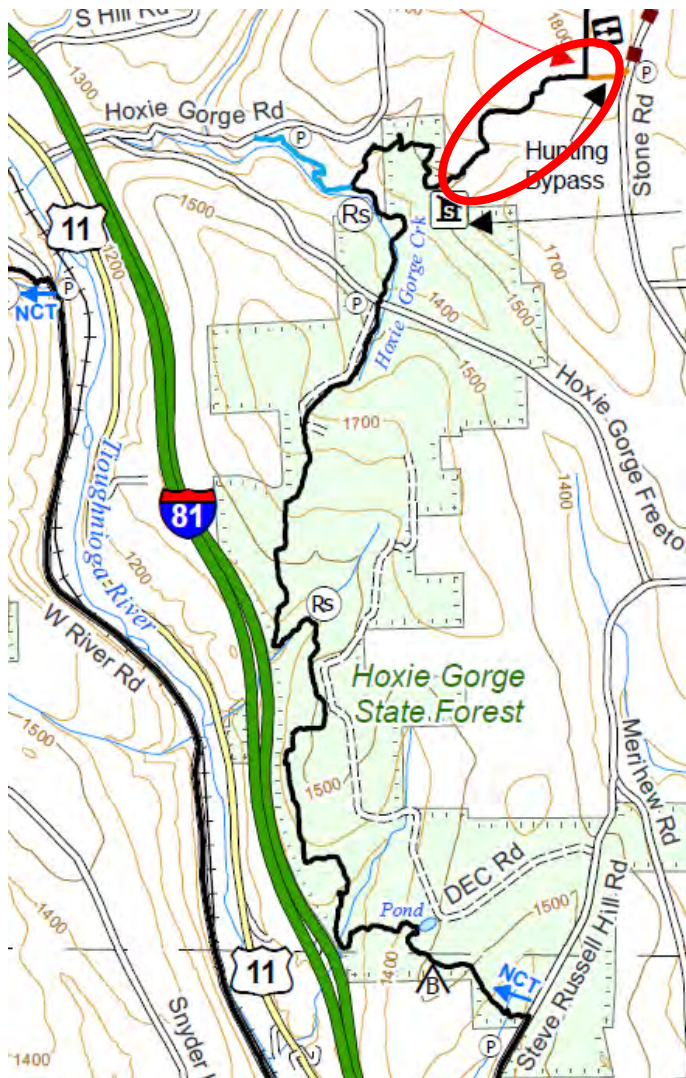
Trail Topics: Trail Preservation Report

David Newman, VP of Trail Preservation



GOOD NEWS

If you study the map, you'll see that hiking eastbound the trail crosses the busy Interstate 81 corridor and then turns north for 6.3 miles through Hoxie Gorge State Forest and SUNY Cortland land before coming to the Hoxie Gorge Lean-to. From there it's about a mile northeast across private property to the parking on Stone Road. What the map doesn't show is that due to land ownership patterns and topography, there aren't any good alternative routes to Stone Road. It's a perfect example of a "key" trail parcel, a location where if we lose permission; it will cause a really unfortunate trail closure. In this case it would leave the Hoxie Gorge Lean-to on a dead-end trail segment, and cause a long road walk on Hoxie Gorge Freetown and Stone roads.



Map M20

We're delighted to report that by the time you read this, FLTC should literally own that last mile of trail corridor. Thanks to Mary Coffin's initial negotiation with the landowner and almost two years of follow up work, as we go to press we have a signed contract to purchase 34 acres, the surveys are complete, the Town has given its final blessing to the subdivision application and the attorneys are doing their thing to schedule a socially distanced (by mail) closing on this ~\$60,000 project.



It really is GOOD NEWS, guaranteed forever access to the east side of Hoxie Gorge State Forest. We also get an acre or so of old stone quarry at Stone Road which makes for a nice off-road parking area. This purchase is funded by our Sidote Stewardship Fund, whose objective is to encourage FLTC members and friends of the trail to contribute to its construction, enhancement, and preservation, including the purchase of land and/or land rights if necessary.

The Sidote fund has received generous support and reported an available balance of \$932,000 before this project. This restricted-use money isn't "burning a hole" in our pocket, since the fund's rules don't permit us to use the money to pay the electric bill or payroll, but we are consciously looking for similar projects where by protecting a "key" link property we can guarantee forever access for the trail. Astute readers will remember we have an additional \$63,000 tied up in a project on Coddington Road and \$74,000 on White Church Road, both just south of Ithaca, where DEC intends to repurchase the properties once their budget allows. (Perhaps we should say, *if* their budget allows, given the current Covid-19 crisis in State funding.) Clearly, it isn't our strategy to "buy" the trail, but for truly "key" parcels like this one, where there is no better alternative, the Sidote Fund does give us that option.

More details to follow in the next *FLT News* including thanks to our landowner and all our volunteers who made this happen. Those of us who knew Ed Sidote think he'd be smiling at this good news – and asking what we could do as the next project! 🍁

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

Trail Topics: Map Updates

Greg Farnham, Director of Mapping



14 maps were updated since the last issue:

- On B3, a reroute moved the trail off road between CR75 and Williams Rd. New revision date: 8/31/2019.
- On M18 there was a minor reroute near Blackman Hill Rd and a reroute between White Church and Braley Hill Rd. New revision date: 7/31/2019.
- On M27, there was a short reroute and a new revision date of 9/1/2019.

More recently, on April 29, the following updates were published: M9, M10: This is a major update due to two construction projects and one loss of landowner permission on M10. M9 was updated because the bypass at the western end of M10 is visible on M9. The rev. date for both maps is now 5/1/2020. See Trail Conditions for the details: <https://fingerlakestrail.org/plan-hikes-finger-lakes-trail/trail-conditions/#M10>

CT4: Removed a summer woodchuck hunting closure between Access 4 and 5. This section is still closed during the spring and fall hunting seasons. The rev. date is now 4/15/2020.

M4: Added a note concerning a new lodging option to back of the map. The rev. date is unchanged.

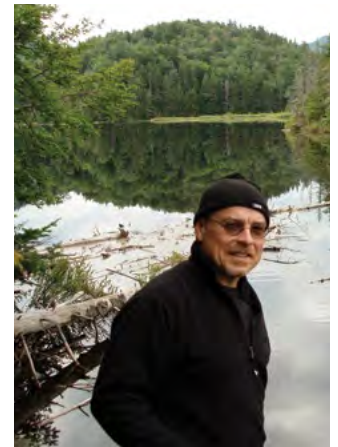
M19, InL2, VML: The parcel along Babcock Hollow Road containing the Lithuanian and Irish Loops, formerly belonging to Joe Dabes, has been sold to New York State to connect the two separate parcels of Kennedy State Forest and also to provide access to Babcock Hollow Rd. Now hikers can camp on this land as camping is allowed on state forest land. The new rev. date for these maps is 4/26/2020.

In addition, administrative changes, with no TC notice or public announcement of these changes, were made. For B2, M26, and

M27: sponsor changes. For the EL map: Directional arrows on the loops were removed to make the map less “busy.”

Nearly all that work was performed by Jo, while Greg travelled across the country and now resides in New Hampshire. The trip across the country was affected by COVID-19, and limited spots to filling stations and take-out restaurants. It was fortunate that I was traveling with my small travel trailer, as hotel availability and conditions were questionable, and not necessary. Even at the end of April, life for those of us who live in our moving homes is very different. There is no rule or reason to guide what sites are available. Some National Parks are open, while some are closed. Many private RV sites are closed. Fortunately my brother in New Hampshire has not declared any such restrictions.

The day I travelled across NYS, all state parks were closed for camping (i.e., staying overnight). The day I landed in New Hampshire and tried to buy maps to begin hiking the nearby portions of the AT, the AT was closed indefinitely. We should all be grateful that our Finger Lakes Trail is open, and MUST read the notices posted on our website at <https://fingerlakestrail.org/> before each activity. Please follow the rules, keep safe, and help save lives. 🍁



Contact: Greg Farnham
FLTCmapping@outlook.com

Trail Maintenance continued from page 10

new FLT Map M-10 as Access Point #1. To connect to the main FLT from this point head south on the Shawmut Trail (FLT) for about 0.7 of a mile. The second project will be repairs to the City of Hornell Water Treatment Plant that is located behind the Econo Lodge off of Seneca Road N. There will be heavy construction equipment in the area and a gate across the FLT. DO NOT enter the construction zone even if the gate is open. The trail will be closed from Seneca Road to Big Creek Road (CR70A). You can rejoin the FLT at the intersection of CR70A and Beltz Rd (Access Point #3). The new route will use the Shawmut Trail, City and County Roads and will be sparsely signed and blazed white. Please check the new FLT Map M10 for more details which will be published on or about May 1st. I would like to thank our mapping team, Greg Farnham and Jo Taylor, for all their work on this major update. We have been working on this on and off all winter. Thank you Greg and Jo!

Pat Monahan - Crystal Hills Trail RTC

The Crystal Hills Trail hosts the Great Eastern Trail (GET) in New York State. The northern terminus is located at the intersection of the main trail with the Moss Hill lean to in the South Bradford State Forest in Steuben County on Map M13. It travels south to the southern terminus at Flagg Mountain in Alabama. The Great Eastern Trail Association (GETA) annual Board meeting was scheduled to be held in April on the Midstate Trail in Wellsboro, Penna., but because of COVID-19 it was cancelled. Pat Monahan and Deb Nero represent the FLT on the GETA Board. 🍁

Contact: Jon Bowen
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jkbowen@gmail.com

Trail Topics: Alley Cat Date Changes & Postponements

Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews and Construction



One of the positive benefits of participating in an Alley Cat project is the camaraderie volunteers create building new structures or trail that hikers can enjoy for years to come. Camaraderie involves the coming together of people in relation to an Alley Cat in small groups; hence, the discussion I have had with many different groups, agencies and individuals these past few months about social distancing. Some of the Alley Cat projects such as the Hesse Lean-to repair and Solon trail rehab have been moved to the fall in hope that social distancing guidelines and the status of the pandemic will favor the running of these projects. The Kanakadea lean-to was originally moved to be in the fall and is now on hold. We have an opportunity to work with Rob Hughes and Big Beams Timber Frames on a new lean-to design that will likely be built in Kanakadea and another lean-to donation was received late last year that I was planning for 2021. At the moment, I am attempting to see if all the details concerning the lean-to donation involving the location and approval process can take place and be approved by the appropriate DEC region to realize a fall construction date. If so, an announcement will be made with the details concerning location, project/construction manager, lodging and food. Of course, all of this depends on the social distancing guidelines and pandemic status that may change in the coming months.

The American Hiking Society (AHS) Letchworth State Park Alley Cat was cancelled along with the postponement of the Coddington Road Ladder project. In my email conversations with AHS they originally wanted to see if we could reschedule it to be in July or later in the year, but the project had many facets that would make that challenging. AHS expressed that they would like to see a project run in Letchworth State Park so I will apply once again for a crew in addition to inviting various running, environmental and hiking groups to participate in 2021. I may still run the S. Bradford switchback project in the fall so keep checking our Alley Cat website and Facebook pages for updates to these projects as we get closer to late summer and fall.

In March, I met with Tom Stoddard from Letchworth State Park to go over the first set of plans for the Alley Cat. We walked through many of the access trails from River Road using the GPS tracks I received from several trail stewards and their list of concerns they would like to see resolved. Most of the work is to involve drainage work as there is a lot of sitting water on the trail and some of the former ways water had previously exited the trail have changed over the years. We did go over a likely reroute for Access F to move the trail to a ridge that was very dry even though the temperature that day was above freezing and snow melt was very evident. While the approval process for reroutes takes some time, if approved which I believe they will be, this will be a vast improvement to that section.

I also received approval to use culverts on Access G that we will cut in half, install alongside the trail and force the water off at a low point in the topography. Some areas may still require the use of puncheons as the Park has some guidelines in their use that take time to approve, but they also require puncheons not to impede access to the trail by a motorized mule. This means that we would have to make them six feet wide to allow a mule on them or construct them low to the ground to allow a motorized mule to drive over them. The caveat with a low puncheon is whether they will effectively allow a hiker

to traverse them without being overrun by water or mud. Over the next few months, I will be out there hiking the entire trail to locate other areas of concern, GPS the coordinates of them and write-up my proposals to the Park so they can be evaluated and approved so I have a master plan for Alley Cats in that area for some time to come. The Alley Cat in Letchworth for 2021 will not solely be focused on the access trails; I have already submitted a plan for the trail from Access D heading north that will be a part of next year's work as well.

Looking forward to 2021, I have been working with the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District on addressing an erosion project on Map B3. In 2010, Lynda Rummel, the late Gerry Benedict, a dozen students from the Rochester Institute of Technology and I repaired or replaced numerous puncheons and bridges between Bean Station and Stuart Roads. Several years later, it was brought to my attention that the creek is eroding both sides of the embankment and at some point if not addressed, our 40ft bridge will not be long enough to bridge the gap. I was put in touch with Chelsea White from the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation who visited the site several times and put together an amazingly detailed plan that including blueprints of the proposal, maps, charts and everything one could hope for that can resolve the situation at hand. I would like to personally thank her and the folks from the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District for constructing such a detailed proposal that will make our work so much easier and one that meets the various guidelines that are required when crossing a waterway in New York State.

Speaking of crossings...my attempt to locate a 50 ft. bridge blueprint that we could have had evaluated for use at the Solon Alley Cat hasn't turned up a useable plan as of yet, so I have turned my attention to the use of stepping stones to traverse the gap. We used stepping stones several years ago in Taylor Valley that have worked very well. I am learning the finer points of what is involved in using such a solution that involves the allowance of water and wildlife passage, wetland determinations, floodplains and a host of permits to realize the use of them. This really is a unique learning experience and one that I can appreciate working with various state agencies on how seriously they

take the job of protecting waterways, wildlife and the use of materials to allow us to hike the trails we enjoy. 🍁



Hesse Lean-to on Map M7 has had its roof knocked off by fallen trees.

Contact: Mike Schlicht
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2020 Frozen Branch 50K Recap

Jeff Darling



From the people who brought you the Twisted Branch Trail Run comes a race born of necessity. Many ultra races require runners to complete qualifying events to prove fitness. Such was the case in 2018, when Twisted Branch race director Scott Magee intended to run the Georgia Death Race. He needed a qualifying 50K in order to participate. We already held a race on the FLT and had been joking about running the Bristol Hills Trail during the winter season. So we decided to hold the inaugural Frozen Branch 50K in order to meet Scott's requirement. Eight runners braved that first, humble starting line. Three years later, the race has grown to forty-five.

This year's event began and finished at the Urbana Town Hall on February 22nd. Many thanks to David Oliver for keeping the bathrooms open and allowing cars to park in the lot. Runners started through the vineyards of Pleasant Valley and up Mitchellsville Gorge at 9:00am. All then turned north at the Bristol Hills trail intersection and began to follow orange blazes. Rice cakes, warm broth, and cider were provided at mile eight on Mitchellsville Road, just west of Lake David.

Thirty-one runners succumbed to the smell of chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, and brownies at Evangeline Shelter. These 25K finishers were led by Aaron Horell from Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania (3:43) and Painted Post resident Heather Horth (3:50).

Fourteen runners made the turn and completed the full 50K. The overall winner this year was Tristan Braxendale from Endicott, New York. Tristan finished the 32 mile course in 7 hours 10 minutes. Bellington, Washington, native Kristin Moehl set a women's course record with a 7 hour 32 minute performance.

Participation was fairly local, compared with Twisted Branch's demographics. Thirty-five runners were from across New York, nine traveled from Pennsylvania, and Moehl came all the way from Washington. A cap was placed on the number of runners in order to minimize the impact upon the trail. Forty-five more were left on a waiting list.

There continues to be demand for this event, perhaps because there aren't many trail races in February. It could be the beautiful trails. Or, maybe the lure of tepid, vegan chili is a siren song few can resist. Either way, we are looking forward to a fourth Frozen Branch 50K in 2021.

For full results of the 2020 Frozen Branch 50K, visit https://ultrasignup.com/m_results_event.aspx?did=73679 🍁



Laura Howard

Kirk Smith offering hot grilled cheese sandwiches at the Evangeline Shelter 25 km spot.



Michele Fanton

Heather Horth running at the top of Mitchellsville gorge.

Make a Gift to the FLTC's Capital Equipment Fund



The Finger Lakes Trail Conference is grateful for the many generous members and donors who make financial contributions each year through our annual campaign in December. Those gifts provide critical funding to support all the work we do to protect, maintain, and enhance the Finger Lakes Trail System throughout the year.

Today, we ask you to consider a special gift to our newly established Capital Equipment Fund to support the purchase of an ATV and trailer for major trail projects.

Each year, the Finger Lakes Trail undertakes 3-5 major projects, such as the construction of lean-tos, bridges or puncheons. If you've ever participated in one of these projects, you know the amount of manpower that goes into their planning and execution, and you know the quality of the work completed by our many skilled and dedicated volunteers. You also know the very real struggle of getting equipment and supplies to and from the work site.

These major projects take place on both the main and branch trails, often a mile or more from any access road. For years, the FLTC used an old ATV that we owned, but which required significant annual repairs and maintenance. Two years ago, the costs outweighed the benefits, so we sold the ATV.

Last year we explored renting but learned that was not a viable option. We are relying now on borrowed equipment, which creates issues with scheduling and executing projects that are already difficult to schedule.

This year the FLTC's Board of Managers approved the creation of a Capital Equipment Fund for large purchases like this. Thanks to a small number of very generous donors, the Fund currently has \$2,000 in available funds. To meet our immediate needs this year, which have been identified as the purchase of an ATV and an enclosed trailer to safely store and transport the ATV, we need an additional \$11,000.

Your gift will support necessary and vital improvements to the trail now and for years to come. You can use the remittance envelope in this magazine to make your gift, or go online to make your gift today: <https://fingerlakestrail.org/members/give/>.

Thank you for your support! 🍁

Estimated Cost of All-Terrain-Vehicle - \$8,000

Estimated Cost of Enclosed Trailer for Transport -
\$5,000 - \$13,000



Jacqui Wensich

One of our DR mowers on a custom built trailer for transporting it. We could use several more of both of these!



Jacqui Wensich

Carrying a load of shelter lumber inland to a project site, with Lynda Rummel's own "mule." Without our own equipment, sometimes we depend upon private machines.

FLT50 Announcement



The Finger Lakes Trail launched an exciting new challenge for you this May—the FLT50!

The challenge is simple: register online, walk, hike or run 50 miles on the FLT before the end of the year, log and submit your miles to us, and we'll reward you with an FLT50 patch and sticker, a certificate, and a shout-out on our website and in these pages.



Sara Stebbins

The Stebbins Family turned hikes into impromptu science lessons while completing their FLT50. Pictured here is 9-year-old Frankie in Morgan Hill State Forest. Oh, how cool! frog eggs in a puddle.

Participation in the FLT50 is free and open to anyone. Participants are encouraged to share pictures and stories on social media tagging @fingerlakestrail and using the hashtags #FLT50 and #fingerlakestrail. We've got some fun monthly prizes, and additional prizes for those who log more miles on the trail.

Visit our website for complete information and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates. Join the challenge and join the fun!

What people are already saying about the challenge:

@bohemia.equestrian on Instagram "Yesterday Magnolia and I laid down our first miles for the Finger Lakes 50 Challenge. Our



goal is to hike 50 miles during the month of May (all while staying local and respecting social distancing). Fortunately for us the FLT in our area is primarily comprised of backcountry trails and old farm roads. **This challenge came at exactly the right moment.** We'd both found ourselves moping about the house, putting on pounds and full of self pity for backpacking trips cancelled (ok maybe that last was just me). **Yesterday's views were heart wrenching.** I had no idea such incredible, sweeping vistas were less than 15 miles from home. **I felt entirely transformed.** I can't wait to get out there again and rack up those miles! I hope you are

discovering new goals and local treasures wherever you are." 🍁



@girlmeetsethioia



Sara Stebbins

FLT Members the Stebbins Family enjoyed a May hike in Morgan Hill State Forest.

New Log Picnic Table & Improvements to the Beaver

Story and Photos by Colleen Betruss

Pond Campsite



As COVID-19 hit New York State and schools began to close during mid-March, Jon and Colleen Betruss, two educators at Naples Jr.-Sr. High School, found themselves at home with their children, Jake and Connor. The family lives close to Map B1 of the Bristol Hills section of the Finger Lakes Trail that runs from Ontario County Park to West Hollow Rd.

On this section of the trail, there is a campsite with a beautiful lean-to near the beaver pond. For years, there was a picnic table at the campsite, but it had recently fallen apart. In addition to losing the picnic table, the campsite is situated across a small stream with a short footbridge to access the site. There were several boards that needed to be replaced on the footbridge.

The Betruss family has worked with members of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference to do trail maintenance activities with students from Naples Central School District over the last decade. In 2019, Regional Coordinator Donna Noteware and the Betruss family talked about potentially replacing the picnic table, rebuilding the footbridge, and improving the campsite area. The hope was to do this with a group of NCS students.

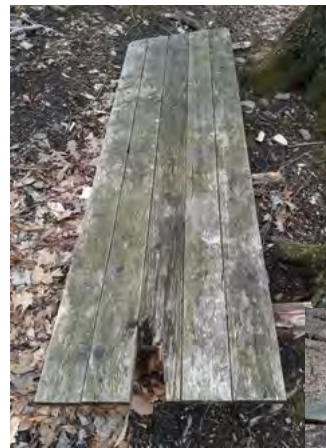
With time and resources available, Jon Betruss thought while New York State was on PAUSE, it would be a good time to jump into this project. Sadly, the only NCS students involved in the project were Jake and Connor Betruss. One bright spot was the fact that Connor Betruss is a student in Mr. Almekinder's 5th grade class at Naples Elementary this year. Mr. Almekinder's class is the steward group of the B1 Map of the FLT, where the campsite is located.

As the family started social distancing, Jon and Connor decided to start this project by looking up designs online for a log picnic table. Once a design was picked, they started collecting materials. The materials for the picnic table and footbridge came from white oak trees cut with the family's sawmill. All materials were sourced locally on the Betruss property.

After the boards were cut, the Betruss family first removed the old footbridge and rebuilt it with new boards. In addition, Jon cut two new log chairs for the fire pit area. Before constructing the picnic table at the campsite, Jon and Connor worked on cleaning up the campsite area by raking and rebuilding the fire pit. They collected firewood for campfires. Once this work was complete, the construction of the log picnic table began.



Jon and Jake re-decking footbridge



Old picnic table top

picnic table, new log chairs, new footbridge, as well as the other additions helped enhance this beautiful area. The Betruss family hopes many hikers and campers will enjoy these improvements for years to come. The project provided many positive memories for the family during a very turbulent time. They look forward to helping with more projects in the future...hopefully, with more students from Naples CSD. 🍁

The log table pieces were driven to the edge of Patrick Smith's (Colleen's father) property, which includes the Finger Lakes Trail. With the help of family members, the materials were moved to the campsite area and the log picnic table was assembled at the site. The



Finished log picnic table with Jon and Connor (left) and Jake (right)



Finished picnic table and campsite area



Connor and Jon milling boards for the log picnic table on our sawmill



Many on the Genny

Eric Eagan

With the cancellation of Many On The Genny in 2020 due to COVID-19 we gave runners three options. 1. Refund 2. Defer entry to 2021 and 3. Donation to be used for trail projects.

We had an overwhelming response from runners who wished to donate 100% of their race registration and today we are sending a donation for \$3,000 to the FLTC as a thank you for the beautiful trail that so many of us train and race on.

We look forward to hosting the race on June 19th, 2021!

THANK YOU!

This is the group of trail runners who limit the number in their race, do copious work before and after their race on the Letchworth Trail, both ours and the Park's, who have adopted two segments of our Letchworth Trail, AND contribute their proceeds to the Finger Lakes Trail. We are proud to work with them. Regional Coordinator Irene Szabo



Ron Heerkens, Jr.

Prem Kumar, a runner during the Many on the Genny race.

Send Us Your Pictures



Cynthia Massicci

▲ *The Finger Lakes Land Trust's Stevenson Forest Preserve is mostly a dark thick hemlock area with little understory. Travelling its stunning length is our main trail on Map M16.*

► *This is also from the Stevenson Forest Preserve, where the edge opposite from the paralleling road fronts on younger successional woods and features several vernal pools, some of which are wet and intriguing only in spring.*



Cynthia Massicci

Photography Feature

A Naturalist's View

D. Randy Weidner



Compared to the devastation caused by COVID-19 in places like Queens, the territory through which runs the Finger Lakes Trail has suffered little. Nevertheless, as all good New Yorkers, we hopefully follow the guidelines set forth by New York DEC for safe outdoor activity while hiking the Trail. I suspect many regular hikers have sorely missed an anticipated spring of hiking with their favorite group. Some may have compensated by more solo hiking. But no doubt many have drastically reduced their outdoor time, concerned about contracting the virus, or sheltering in place as a medically necessary measure. In Nature, no species other than humans has the capacity to understand the public health strategies for dealing with a pandemic disease. But there are some who are superbly adapted to shelter in place. That would be the turtles.

In this article, the term “turtle” will be used to refer to any of the reptiles that have a bony shell formed by the fusion of ribs to function as a shield, regardless of where the animal lives. Various members of this group are commonly referred to as turtles, terrapins, or tortoises. These names do not correspond to any scientific classification of the animal, and vary depending on the animal’s habitat and differ among English-speaking peoples. In British English, “turtles” refer to all fresh-water and ocean-dwelling species, and primarily land-dwelling species are “tortoises.” On this side of the pond, American English uses “turtle” to denote those species spending most of their time on land or fresh water, and “terrapin” for those inhabiting brackish water. Americans tend to use “tortoise” for purely land-dwelling species, particularly those in deserts, and “sea turtle” for ocean-dwellers. What a mess!



Box Turtle

Encyclopedia of Life

New York State is home to at least twelve land or freshwater turtles. The Finger Lakes Trail runs from Allegany State Park in the west, through the southern

Finger Lakes region, ending in the Catskill Park in the east. Despite this wide landscape, there are only four species of turtle you might encounter in the upland and small pond habitats through which the Trail runs. The two common ones are: Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) and Eastern Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*). The other two are both considered by DEC as species of “special concern:” Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) and Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*). We will consider each one in turn.

When you come upon a trailside pond and notice a semi-submerged log, look carefully and you are likely to see a Painted Turtle. They are rather shy, so stand still or they will slide off into the water. They are New York’s most common turtle, inhabiting ponds,

lakes, marshes, and swamps. The 5-7 inch long carapace (upper shell) is dark colored, sometimes with faint yellow between the 13 sections, technically known as “scutes.” On closer inspection, there are red markings along the carapace edge. There are yellow and red streaks on the neck, and the plastron (lower shell) is yellow. Males have longer front leg claws, while females have more elongated shells. Like many turtles, almost everything is on the menu, from vegetation to invertebrates, tadpoles, and carrion. Painted Turtles have a romantic courting behavior, the male using his long claws to stroke the female’s neck, head, and face. If that tender approach fails, aggressive males may force themselves, inflicting injuries with their beaks and a sharp spike on the front of his shell.

Contrasted to the pretty, shy, little Painted Turtle is the large, nasty-tempered Snapping Turtle, named the New York State reptile in 2006. The Snapper’s carapace is 10-16 inches long, and this stout fellow weighs 8-35 pounds, but can reach 70 pounds over a 40-year lifespan. You will not see a Snapping Turtle sunning itself on a log. Most often, all you see its snout and



Wood Turtle

Encyclopedia of Life



Painted Turtle

Encyclopedia of Life



Snapping Turtle

Randy Weidner

the top of the carapace above the water in a calm pond. If you see one on land, it is usually in early in summer, a female looking for a place to lay her eggs, typically 20-30 but up to 80 soft-shelled and white, buried in streamside sand, gravel, mulch, a garden, or a road berm. However, sometimes a Snapper just decides to leave its home pond and strikes out for a new home, covering long distances overland. You should know that almost every pond of any size houses a Snapping Turtle. The carapace has large somewhat sculpted scutes, and the carapace is often coated with mud and algae. The forelegs are large and muscular and the claws are long. The plastron is much reduced, so a Snapper cannot fully withdraw into its shell, often leaving exposed the tail, large forelegs, and tip of the beak. Snappers eat vegetation, invertebrates, fish, birds and small mammals. If you see a duck or goose missing a foot, it may well have been victim of a Snapper. Usually they wait in ambush, striking out snake-like with their long necks; hence, the species name *serpentina*. Almost nothing preys on adult Snapping Turtles, but racoons and skunks may find and eat their eggs. In addition to their powerful bite, Snappers defensively emit a foul-smelling musk. While ill-tempered on land, under water they just amble away, walking or bouncing along the bottom, even if accidentally stepped on. Snapping Turtles are game animals, harvested for snapper soup. Hunters have told me that even the amputated head of a Snapping Turtle, if the mouth is agape and something touches the tongue, will snap with enough force to take off a finger.

Eastern Box Turtles were not uncommon when I was a boy, but a degraded habitat, a slow reproductive potential, and being preyed upon by nearly all medium-sized mammalian predators and especially domestic dogs, has greatly reduced their number to where they are now of "special concern" in our state. These most terrestrial of all New York turtles wander woods and fields, going to water only to avoid extreme heat. These gentle turtles have a 4-6-inch-long, high-arched carapace, mottled in browns and black. Box Turtles have a hinged plastron which allows them to fully withdraw into their shells and shelter in place. Each evening, Box Turtles dig into the leaf litter, often next to a log, and hide. They might use the same spot for a few nights, then move on. Males can be differentiated by their coral-red eyes, as opposed to the females' brown eyes. They are very fond of strawberries and raspberries, not to mention mushrooms, some of which are known to be toxic to us. They also eat other vegetation, worms, slugs, snails, and carrion. A Box Turtle can live 125 years.

The rarest turtle along the Trail would be the Wood Turtle, so named for their preferred habitat and the colored pattern of its carapace. Their carapace can be somewhat sculpted, and scutes have concentric brown lines giving it a woodgrain appearance. The plastron scutes are yellow with dark blotches. Wood Turtles can retract most of the way into their shells. These turtles are often found near fast-flowing streams, have a diet similar to the Box Turtle plus tadpoles, and suffer the same enemies. One interesting fact about Wood Turtles is that they are fast afoot, for a turtle. At the camp I attended as a Boy Scout, a weekly highlight was the turtle race. Each Troop tried to find a turtle during the week to race against the counselors' champion. Handlers stood facing out from a 3-foot diameter inner circle, and at the starting signal, put their turtle down. First turtle across the outer circle, about 6-8 feet

away, wins. Most entrants were Box Turtles, but the counselors always had a Wood Turtle ringer. Our Troop found a Wood Turtle one year, and being fresher from the wild, our guy smoked them all.

There are many fascinating things about turtles too good not to share. In winter, turtles nestle into cold mud, greatly reduce their metabolism, and absorb through the membranes of their mouth and neck just enough oxygen from the cold water to stay alive. Many fast first, expelling any food from their alimentary tracts so as not to have ice crystals form there. As long as the temperature stays above 25 degrees F, even if over half their tissues freeze, they will survive. Speaking of temperature, it seems that the temperature at which turtle eggs are incubated influences the sex of the hatchling, with warmer temperatures yielding more females. This could be an issue with climate change – where did all the guys go? And one last factoid, turtles (and some birds) can see the color red better than humans, able to differentiate several shades between crimson and scarlet. Turtles arose in the Jurassic with the dinosaurs, survived the killer asteroid by sheltering in place, and hopefully survive the Anthropocene.

If you find a turtle while hiking, let them be. If you see one trying to cross a road, help her across. If it is a Snapping Turtle, never lift it by the tail and stay clear of all but the very back of the shell or you may lose a finger. Snappers do not herd well; they stop and get defensive. New York DEC has a video showing how to move a Snapper on their web-site. Letting them crawl onto a car mat, then pulling the mat from behind should be safe.

Editor's observation: I tried to move a snapper out of the road once, with a metal downspout I happened to have aboard. The turtle wheeled with surprising speed and agility, biting the downspout with an impressive clang! After seeing how fast that one wheeled, I'd never put myself only a car mat away, and I've seen heads just out of the water that were bigger than my fist by a lot. 🍁

THANKS TO OUR TRAIL LANDOWNERS

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

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

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

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator



New Main Trail:

#478 Barbara Nussbaum of Ithaca 2nd time (#388, BT 102)

Overall:

We asked that potential thru hikers do not travel out of their area. Everyone has complied to date. Hopefully, these restrictions will have finished by publication of the Summer News.

Updates:

A good example is Andrew Converse of Dryden who had originally planned to hike the main trail in four years all in the winter. Because of the restrictions, Andrew did not begin his thru hike this winter. He now will hike the main trail in county segments as the restrictions lift. (While there is no official "winter" designation because of the relatively low number of end to enders (477), I do make note on the certifications and website.) Jerry Flowers will begin his main trail hike this summer M1-3. David DeVitto plans to thru hike once the travel restrictions are lifted.

Note:

Eagle Scouts #222 Kenny Alton and #223 Patrick Fava were the first winter thru hikers per Ed Sidote. The winter was relatively mild. They dedicated their hike to their scout master. The trail was 563 miles and took them 25 days, during their Brockport State College winter break.

Since then, only #368 David Keegan has completed a winter hike. The weather was the opposite of the Eagle Scouts'. David experienced difficult winter weather conditions but provided wonderful winter photos. #429 Josh Naylor aka Snailor finished in April...not technically all winter hiking. #427 John Grizzly Volt and #428 Paul Hulet both of Utah finished in May with many very difficult weather days. They sent in hundreds of drenched, muddy, shivering photos. I always recommend hiking after May 1st.

Comments

Someone recently asked if you must complete the road hikes to qualify for a main trail end to end award? Probably a few others have wondered about this, too. Yes, you must do all the road hikes. They are part of the trail. Hunting season guarantees many more road hikes so plan accordingly. Remember many of those road hikes are in the woods and on back roads. Only a few are on busy highways and not for long periods. I used my road hikes to speed up my hiking pace. Always check the most recent trail conditions for other closures such as logging.

Car Spotter News

Jessica M Brown has joined our car spotter list. She and her son and enthusiastic labradoodle Kipper are hiking the main trail in 100 mile backpacking segments. You can follow her on Facebook. She will assist on Crystal Hills 1-2, Bristol Hills 3 and M11-14 terrific!! She is willing to assist thru hikers as needed.

THERE ARE NO SHUTTLES ON THE FLT. I have had several requests for long distance rides. Our car spotter list is for short distances. Long rides are up to the hiker to arrange. Joining the list serve is usually helpful for local information and assistance.

We need more car spotters for the Branch Trails and **M1-5, M27-34**. Please consider signing on as a car spotter. Just email me at jwensich@rochester.rr.com for the application. You are a vital part of hiking our trails.

TIPS for aspiring end-to-enders: 1. Review the End-to-End Hiking section on the FLT website. 2. Join the FLT egroup, 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 high resolution as you hike and keep trail notes, so you can write your end-to-end 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 discussion group to see if someone is willing, if you do not have a friend or family member available. 🍁



Ed Sidote

These two college guys, Kenny Alton and Patrick Fava, backpacked the trail in winter.



Kipper and Seth Brown

JC Brown

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

Join the FLT Googlegroup E-Mail List

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference's e-mail list is a discussion group hosted by Googlegroups.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 oversee the use of this electronic mailing list and offer help with questions are:
Larry Blumberg (lblumberg@stny.rr.com) and Scott Geiger, (scott.geiger@gmail.com).

To join the group, send a note to lblumberg@stny.rr.com requesting that you be added to the FLT HIKING Googlegroup. If you have any problems or questions, contact one of the co-moderators.

SUPPORT THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL AND GET A FREE MEMBERSHIP

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



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

You can also join online at: northcountrytrail.org

Name(s) of New Member(s)	_____
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Please Choose a Chapter Affiliation if You Wish (Check One)	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Make Me Paperless! Send Correspondence and Magazine to Email Address	
Comments	_____

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



Warren Johnsen

A view of the Catskills from Slide Mountain Trail.

It's The Least We Can Do

Irene Szabo, Chair FLTC Recognitions Committee



A couple times a year we ask for award nominations, but handling the flood isn't hard. In fact, some days we need to check our pulses.

Part of the trouble is that our Recognitions Committee doesn't know everybody who is doing an especially good job for the trail, while YOU know what local volunteers are contributing above and beyond. So once again, we're going to beg you for nominations, in writing, sent to me, via email to treeweenie@aol.com, or by paper mail to 7639 Swamp Rd, Bergen, N.Y. 14416. Help us appreciate our special people, please!

Here is a list of the FLT Awards:

Wally Wood Distinguished Service Award

This award is presented each year to the person or persons who have made outstanding longterm contributions to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. The award consists of a hiking stick with an engraved plate or a wall plaque, winner's choice.

Wally Wood came up with the idea of a long distance footpath across New York State and was the founder of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference.

Clar-Willis Distinguished Trail Volunteer Award

This award is made to an individual or pair of individuals who have made a significant contribution over a period of time as trail workers. These individuals may be individual members of the Conference or members of one of our Trail Sponsor organizations. One award will be made each year at the Fall Campout. Those honored will receive a tool of the winner's choice with a removable engraved plate.

Harry Clar and Edward Willis are two outstanding examples of great dedication and longtime service in building and maintaining many miles of the Finger Lakes Trail System.

Ervin Markert Distinguished Contribution Award

This award is made to an individual, group or organization in the public or private sector that has made a significant contribution toward the improvement of hiking and/or trails in New York State. It will be awarded as needed, but not more than once a year. The award may be made at any time within the calendar year. The award will consist of a Resolution by the Board of Managers and an engraved plaque.

Erv Markert served as the Trail Committee Chair for nearly twenty years. During that time he also served on several state and national committees and organizations involved with trails and hiking. He interfaced extremely well with many public employees in the state and federal governments who were involved with trails.

The Howard Beye Lifetime Achievement Award

The Board of Managers retains the right to present the Howard Beye Lifetime Achievement Award to anyone of their choice, reserving this occasional honor for that rare person who has dedicated an extraordinary amount of time, effort, talent, and hard work over many years to the fortunes of the Finger Lakes Trail. As of this date, only four have ever been given (Ed Sidote, Howard Beye, Tom Reimers, and Irene Szabo), and in each case a unique presentation "thing" was created that combined some of the things the awardee was known for, like a shadowbox full of memorabilia pertinent to the honoree.

Howard Beye hosted the FLTC office in his home for 17 years, was the longtime trail chair, organized Alley Cat crews, went to every meeting imaginable from local up to Albany and North Country Trail states.

Gerry Benedict Alley Cat Worker Award

The **Gerry Benedict Award** honors Alley Cat participants who have demonstrated special dedication over the years by repeatedly working on week-long projects across the trail system, whether doing trail reconstruction, building new structures such as shelters or bridges, or supporting those projects by planning, material preparation, or housing and feeding crews.

Gerry Benedict was a dedicated Alley Cat volunteer who lost his life in an accident while volunteering for one such project on May 11, 2012, in the Catskills.

Award: Plaque

Bill and Ellen Garrison Award (Landowner Recognition)

Since the very existence of the trail depends on generous private landowners who permit hikers to walk on their land, the Conference is very grateful to each and every one. Furthermore, some landowners embrace the trail in ways that go far beyond hosting the footpath; they assist hikers with water or other needs, do trail work, allow camping or donate easements to protect the trail corridor forever. Some even donate property to the conference. This award, to be given as deserving candidates are nominated, will recognize those special landowners who go beyond permitting the trail to **enhancing** the trail and the trail experience

We named it for Bill and Ellen Garrison, who were our first landowners to INVITE the trail onto their property from adjacent land, to OFFER an easement without even being asked, and then to build one of the nicest shelters imaginable, the Evangeline shelter on Map B3 between Prattsburgh and Hammondsport. Even after a neighborhood child burned it down, they used their insurance to fund a new one, bigger and better than ever. This is the welcoming spirit that defines this award's intended recipient. 🍁

Recognitions Committee

Speaking of which, most of our committee is getting older and less active, which is yet another reason we don't always know who deserves an award. Hell, Ron Navik lives in North Carolina now! So most of our members would like to be replaced by more active members. PLEASE! We don't have meetings. We exchange a few emails when someone is nominated. We usually agree with the nomination and with each other. Easy, eh? That's the exhausting list of responsibilities, other than asking the office to order a plaque. We had finally snagged a new member but then her husband got a job in Colorado; how annoying! So please reach out to the chair, contact info above, and offer us your sagacity and a few minutes of your time, all in the quest to make deserving volunteers feel good.

Irene

FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT

Saturday, July 25, 2020

2020 Ed Sidote Summer Hike

FLT Map - Map M23

Chenango County, Perkins Pond State Forest & Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area, FLT Map M23 Rev 6/15/2019

Hike Leaders:

From the Bullthistle Hiking Club:

Peg Fuller: peg379@gmail.com 315-653-7345 (short hike)

Julie Thompson: thompj84@gmail.com 607-237-9007 (long hike)

Hike Description:

Both hikes will stop at the Perkins Lean-to. Depending on circumstances there may or may not be a hotdog cook out. The hikes are subject to change. Be sure to watch the FLT website for updated details or contact one of the hike leaders.

The 8 mile hike will include seasonal road walk, blue FLT trail as well as a small section of steep inclines. This hike will pass Lower Pond and Jackson Pond, both very scenic areas.

The 4.5 mile hike will include a shorter walk on seasonal roads and the main FLT to the Perkins Lean to. The hikes are loop hikes so no car shuttle is necessary. Bring a lunch, snack, bug spray, sun screen. Sturdy hiking footwear and a hiking stick are recommended.

Meeting time:

Start time 9 AM

Location:

Both hikes will start at the Clarence Church Rd trailhead

Directions to Meeting Place:

From Binghamton (the South) area:

Take I-81 N to exit 8 for NY-26 toward US-11/NY-79/NY-206/Whitney Point/Lisle, follow the signs and stay on Rt. 26 N, turn right onto NY-26 N. Once you arrive in the Town of South Otselec, pass NBT bank, South Otselec Firehouse, then slight right onto Clarence Church Rd (by Methodist Church). Trail head is approximately 1 mile up on the right.

From the West & North:

I-81 S to exit 15 for US-20 toward Lafayette, turn right onto US-20 E, turn right onto Apulia Rd/Lafayette Apulia Rd, turn left onto NY-80 E, turn right onto NY-91 S, turn left onto NY-13 N, turn left onto NY-26 N, slight right onto Clarence Church Rd (by Methodist Church). Trail head is approximately 1 mile up on the right.

From the East:

Take I-88 W to exit 13 toward NY-205 N, turn right onto NY-205 N, turn left onto NY-23 W, turn right onto County Rte 42, turn right onto NY-26 N, pass NBT bank, South Otselec Firehouse, then slight right onto Clarence Church Rd (by Methodist Church). Trail head is approximately 1 mile up on the right.

Make Your Mask Fun

Peg Fuller has made several no-sew face masks out of available bandanas, so that she always has one clean and ready to go.



Peg Fuller



Peg Fuller



Mike Fuller





Answers to the Spring 2020 “Name That Map!” Quiz

So, you hiked the FLT or parts of it. Let's see how observant you were!
Send your guess to: Jacqui at jwensich@rochester.rr.com

Previous Location:



Beth Lalonde

New Picture:



Terry Dempski

Correctly Identified:

M20 between River Road and Tuller Hill.
Warren Johnsen
Terry R McConnell
Mike and Julie Tenkate - selfie
Doug Dempski and Laurel McCosham
Andrew Converse
Ellen Griffin



New FLT Members

Catharine Ackerson
Samuel Arnold
Jeff Babbitt
Jonathan Bailey
Dave Beach
Megan Bennett
Colleen Betrus
Michel Boudreau
Matthew Brennan
Lori Brewer
James Burdick
Geri Chapman
Mark Clark
Jacob Clyde
Marieanne Coursen
Jonathan Davies
Keith Day
Kate Dickin
Josephine Dombeck
Diane Farnham
Ryan Finnigan

Buffalo
Tully
Fillmore
Corning
Ithaca
Holland
Naples
Moravia
Rochester
Ithaca
Rochester
Binghamton
Cortland
Bloomfield
Edmeston
Geneva
Greene
Ithaca
Olean
Ithaca
Auburn

Frederick Getz
John Gilroy
David Gohn
Lisa Goho
Caleb Gretskey
Edward Hamlin
Eric Hamlin
Kip Hargrave
Sheila Hess
Jody Isaacson
Robert Jonas
Sarah Lane-Ayers
Julia Lapp
Anders Larson
Mary Leary
Jeffrey Luke
Heather Marquis
Amy McCabe
Gary McCaslin
Lori Megivern
Todd Miner

Smithville Flats
Pittsford
Corfu
Almond
LaFayette
Phoenix
Victor
Syracuse
Batavia
Sidney Center
West Milford, NJ
Rochester
Ithaca
Ithaca
Cortland
Fairport
Lakeville
Rochester
Corning
Dryden
Ithaca

Jessica Moquin
Rich Mulye
Paul Ness
Jennifer Ouellette
Brad Rauch
Lisa Redenback
Blake Robinson
Raymond Schrader
Kim Snow
Sheila Squier
Laura Steves
Daniel Sullivan
Ann Marie Sullivan
Lynette Thelen
Andrew Toukatly
Gary Tucker
Riley Vacinek
Christian Vischi Family
David Welsh
Aaron Wightman
Lawrence Wolfe

Earlville
East Syracuse
Rochester
West Seneca
Dryden
Norwich
Redstone, CO
Cohocton
Cortland
Ithaca
Attica
Rochester
Oxford
Livonia
Kenmore
Norwich
Lansing
Earlville
Cortland
Trumansburg
Pittsford

Photography Feature



Cynthia Massieci

▲ *Strange and wonderful light fills the woods at the bottom of Lick Brook, a hill our trail climbs south of Ithaca, on Map M17. Leaves aren't all out yet, admitting more sunlight than normal to the bottom-lands.*

FLT MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 County _____ Phone (____) _____
 Email _____

Make check payable to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference
 Mail to 6111 Visitor Center Rd., Mt. Morris, NY 14510 along with this form.
 Annual dues (Membership year runs from April 1 to March 31. Dues paid after Dec. 31 will be applied to the next membership year.)

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



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

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

During an Alley Cat in 2006, on Map M2, Jacqui Wensich caught Howard Beye mowing a field trail with one of our early DR mowers. For you new kids, Howard was then our guy in charge of all trail maintenance and special projects, too. When he suddenly died in 2007, it took at least four people to divvy up his volunteer jobs. See page 16 for our new equipment fund drive.

