

# Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Fall 2020



## Inside...

- \* Hesse Shelter Alley Cat
- \* Bo Fuller's Terrible Time with Porcupines
- \* New FLT Parcel Guarantees East Side Access to Hoxie Gorge



## 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!



### STAFF

#### Quinn Wright

Executive Director  
fltcexecdir@fingerlakestrail.org

#### Christy Post

Marketing and Communications  
cpost@fingerlakestrail.org

#### Debbie Hunt

585/658-9320  
officemanager@fingerlakestrail.org

### OFFICERS

#### Pat Monahan

President  
pmonahan@stny.rr.com

#### Debra Nero

Executive VP  
dn13@cornell.edu

#### Lisa Barrett

VP Finance  
lisabarrett@fingerlakestrail.org

#### Lori Chiarilli

Secretary  
lori.chiarilli@fingerlakestrail.org

#### Jon Bowen

VP Trail Maintenance  
jkbowen@gmail.com

#### Lynda Rummel

VP Trail Quality  
ljrassoc@roadrunner.com

#### David Newman

VP Trail Preservation  
danewman@rochester.rr.com

#### Steve Czajkowski

VP Membership and Marketing  
steve\_czajkowski@hotmail.com

### DIRECTORS

#### Mike Schlicht

Crews and Construction  
pageazi@yahoo.com

#### Willa Powell

Treasurer  
flt.treasurer@fingerlakestrail.org

#### Greg Farnham

Director of Mapping  
FLTCmapping@outlook.com

### BOARD OF MANAGERS

#### Terms Expiring 2020

##### Donna Flood

dmflood@roadrunner.com

##### Michael Ogden

mogden317@gmail.com

##### Dave Newlun

dave.newlun@yahoo.com

##### Laurie Ondrejka

laurieondrejka@gmail.com

#### Terms Expiring 2021

##### Ann Bayley

annwbayley@aim.com

##### Rich Breslin

wojtech@frontiernet.net

##### Scott Brooks

scottbrooks18@msn.com

##### Terry Meacham

tjmeach150@yahoo.com

#### Terms Expiring 2022

##### Peg Fuller

peg379@gmail.com

##### Scott Geiger

scott.geiger@fingerlakestrail.org

##### Roger Hopkins

roger@naturalhighs.net

##### Tim Sweeney

timsweeney@fingerlakestrail.org

##### Peter Wybron

prwybron@rochester.rr.com

## FALL 2020



### HIKES:

Farm Country Savvy: Leave Gates As You Find Them! . 4	
Hiking Through History...Near Hammondsport ..... 18	
End-to-End Update ..... 20	
Branch Trails End-to-End #127 ..... 21	
The 64 Hours Bo was Missing - May 2020 ..... 22	
Sidote Hike 2020..... 26	
FLT Named Hike ..... 29	



### TRAIL TOPICS:

A Day in the Woods with the ADK..... 6	
Trail Maintenance / Jon Bowen..... 8	
Trail Quality / Lynda Rummel ..... 10	
Alley Cat Update / Mike Schlicht..... 13	
Hesse Shelter Repair and Improvements Map M7 ..... 14	



### TRAIL TOPICS:

Trail Preservation Report / David Newman..... 11	
Map Updates / Greg Farnham..... 12	
Community and Family on the FLT..... 28	
FLTC Protects Trail, A Key Parcel ..... 31	



### COLUMNS and NEWS:

President's Message ..... 3	
Executive Director Report..... 5	
We Reached Our Goal! ..... 27	
Name That Map! ..... 30	
New Members ..... 30	



### OUR LAND:

A Naturalist's View ..... 24	
------------------------------	--

Finger Lakes Trail Office Phone: 585/658-9320

### FINGER LAKES TRAIL NEWS STAFF

Irene Szabo, Editor, 7639 Swamp Rd., Bergen, NY 14416, 585/494-0307, treeweenie@aol.com

Jennifer Epps, Graphic Design

Jo Taylor, Proofreader

Finger Lakes Trail News, Fall Issue, Volume 59, Issue Number 3, 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:

Our Marketing and Communications person Christy Post joining the plucky trees in Rock City State Forest Map M2.

Photo by Mark Valites.

# President's Message

Pat Monahan



All of us have hobbies. Mine include hiking, biking, paddling and disc golf. In Steuben County, I was able to get out and enjoy all of my hobbies throughout this “new normal” aka “life in a pandemic.” I noticed more people on the trails and in the river than ever before. I was impressed to see more people enjoy the outdoors, especially the Finger Lakes Trail. As the medical community and scientists come to understand this pandemic better, I hope that people young and old will continue to explore the trail as a healthy option for solitary and group activity.

Let me highlight a few items for you since my last column.

- I want to personally thank our office manager, Debbie Hunt, for tirelessly working from home while the office was closed for months. Her dedication to the FLT went well beyond what was expected. Thank you!!
- Our Annual Meeting was held as a virtual meeting on September 12, 2020. Thanks to all who attended. In summary, we approved changes to the by-laws that updated our mission statement to include “for the enjoyment and health of residents and visitors.” We welcomed Christy Post as Director of Marketing and Communications; we thanked Donna Flood, Dave Newlun and Mike Ogden for their service on the Board and then welcomed Donna Flood, Pete Hagmire, Laurie Ondrejka, Willa Powell as continuing or new Board members. The financial health of the FLT is strong despite the unusual circumstances over the past six months. As Quinn notes in his column, we were the recipient of a grant from a Park and Trail Partnership that is helping us to complete the work outlined in our Strategic Plan.
- The Board charged an ad hoc committee to study and recommend a new leadership model based on the 2020 strategic plan, and in response to some upcoming changes in staff and board positions. The new model will include paid staff and volunteers in key positions for the FLT, and will result in shifting responsibilities and changing job descriptions for existing positions. Stay tuned for more information in future issues of *FLT News*.
- Budget development is underway for 2021. Again, the financial health of the organization is good.



Tony Rodriguez

- All of our meetings have been by conference calls or virtual meetings. Our Board retreat is scheduled for November 20-22 at Letchworth State Park Conference Center if we can meet in person; otherwise, it will be virtual. Topics will include 2021 budget review, leadership model discussion/action, strategic plan review, and other topics. I will give you the results of the retreat in the spring issue.

The trails have needed some extra attention this year. Our trail maintainers have been out there keeping those trails open and accessible for all of our trail users. Thanks for helping to make the FLT New York's premier footpath. For the rest of us, we might as well

“Go take a hike!!” 🍁



# Farm Country Savvy: Leave Gates As You Find Them!

Dave Newman



It should go without saying that hikers MUST leave any gates they come across on the Trail in the same status they found them in. If the gate is open, you can walk through but you must leave it open. If it is closed, and there is a stile or pedestrian gate available, you need to use that, not the main gate. And if it is closed but there is no stile or pedestrian gate, and blazes are visible beyond, you may use the gate if it isn't locked, but you must secure the gate closed in the same position as you found it. And if there is an electric fence with a spring-loaded disconnect designed to let you open the circuit and pass through, you must reconnect it!

That should go without saying, but with many new 'city bred' hikers doing their socially distanced exercises on the Trail, someone probably not farm savvy blew it, and almost lost all of us permission to use a particular farmer's property. Just because you don't see animals in the field does not mean you can leave the gate open. In this case, someone did, and the farmer had to spend his time rounding up loose cattle. Fortunately none of them wandered unseen into the roadway as a car/cow collision is usually bad news for both. When he called, he was a real gentleman, but very frustrated. The Trail has been on his property for many years. He feels good about sharing his farm road with hikers. But, as he very clearly put it, he can't deal with this any more! Seems that a few years back the opposite happened, someone closed a trail gate that was open. But his cattle were in the far reaches of the upper field and that closed gate kept them from their water source for several days until he discovered thirsty cows and a closed gate. (Heifers, young cattle not yet old enough to be milked, are often put out in the pasture for days at a time.)

Maybe we solved the issue this time, for this particularly gracious and cooperative landowner. Our Regional Trail Coordinator was meeting with him on-site within 36 hours of his initial call, a signage plan was put in place immediately and longer term plans for stiles or pedestrian pass-through gates are in the works. Situation solved... maybe. We hope nobody will ignore these generous hiker accommodations. 🍁



Scott Geiger

*This gate enters one of the grazing pastures within the Finger Lakes National Forest, and the sign makes it clear how we should leave this gate!*



*Jacqui Wensich took this picture of the sheep pasture we walked through in 2007, back when it was occupied. Now there are no gates here while the sheep are pastured elsewhere on the property. The owner says gates will return so hikers will need to be careful in the future.*



Scott Geiger

▲ Here a hiker's alternative to touching the gate is offered, so we must use the ladder-style stile.

► This novel stile also permits a hiker to pass without touching the gate.



Scott Geiger



# Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright



The FLTC was awarded a \$50,000 matching grant from the Environmental Protection Fund's Park and Trail Partnership Grants program earlier this year to support marketing and membership development efforts and to increase tourism across the 1,000 mile Finger Lakes Trail System. The \$50,000 award will be matched by FLTC funds for a budget total of \$72,000.

The FLTC's scope of work within New York state is far-reaching. The Trail runs directly through 13 New York State Parks, and traverses 70 NYSDEC state land areas. Our volunteer network maintains the trail in these areas, taking that responsibility off state agencies and supporting outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. This grant recognizes the importance of that work and comes at a fortuitous time for the FLTC.

As has been written about by me in these pages on numerous occasions, we completed a lengthy strategic planning process last year, which identified the need to focus attention and resources on marketing and membership development. This grant provides funds to help us accomplish these goals and support the important work we do to promote outdoor recreation, tourism and economic development across the Finger Lakes Trail.

The FLTC's grant is one of 29 awards totaling \$900,000 for organizations dedicated to the stewardship and promotion of New York's state parks and historic sites, trails and public lands. The grants will be matched by over \$300,000 in private and local funding and will support projects to strengthen Friends groups and enhance public access and recreational opportunities.

Friends groups—nonprofit organizations often made up entirely of volunteers, as is the FLTC—are essential to the stewardship and promotion of our state park system. These dedicated groups raise private funds for capital projects, perform maintenance tasks, provide educational programming, and promote public use through hosting special events.

The Park and Trail Partnership Grants are administered by Parks & Trails New York, a statewide nonprofit organization, in partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Robin Dropkin said, "It's inspiring to see the transformational effect of the Park and Trail Partnership Grants and how they are

enhancing the ability of Friends groups to make an even greater contribution to the stewardship of New York's great outdoor spaces. These grant funds will enable groups to leverage more private and federal funding, marshal more volunteer power, and augment the state's historic investment in parks, trails and other public outdoors spaces."



Roger Hopkins

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference's grant award helps to fund the organization's new Director of Marketing and Communications, Christy Post, and the costs associated with the increased marketing and membership development efforts we have undertaken under her direction. 🍁

*Quinn and Jewell*



Mark Valites

*Christy Post checking in at a trail register.*

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

# A Day in the Woods with the ADK

Story and Photos by Kevin Russell from [www.alongthemillbrook.com](http://www.alongthemillbrook.com)



July 26, 2020

What an energetic, healthy and fun crew of trail workers are the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) members from Central New York State. On this day, I had the pleasure of joining five of them for a work party on the North Country Trail (NCT). Members of the Onondaga (Syracuse) and Iroquois (Utica) Chapters of the ADK met up in Speculator for a volunteer effort to clear the Kunjamuk Trail, a segment of NCT that leads into the Siamese Ponds Wilderness of the Adirondack Preserve. Named after the adjacent Kunjamuk River, the trail is a single track footpath into the wilderness. A little research revealed that much of this trail follows the Old Kunjamuk Road that was the main route through the Kunjamuk Valley before paving of Route 30 in 1947.

We accessed this trail by way of the Cisco Brook Trail trailhead at the end of Elm Lake Road, 7 miles north of Speculator. Our job for the day was to clear the many blowdowns and debris from the long winter and spring months. Leading the crew was the venerable retired science teacher and North Country Trail maven, Mary Coffin. Maybe you read a previous blog post about my discovery of the North Country Trail in Pennsylvania last summer while on tour, and meeting trail caretaker, and NCTA Clarion County Chapter President, Dave Galbreath. What a surprise to learn that it now connects through Vermont, now my home state, to the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail. Determined to learn more about the trail through my native State of New York, I had the pleasure to meet Mary on a group hike earlier and decided to join her for this adventure. She is now my self-adopted mentor.

Mary split the party of six into two groups of three men and women and we set off. The advanced group was instructed to leave the small stuff and move ahead with the two-man saw. Being in the Adirondack Preserve, only hand tools could be used. I had my trusty loppers and an 18-inch crosscut saw. As we traversed the relatively flat trail, Mary stopped frequently to point out the marvelous towering White Pine trees. Luckily none of those giants had fallen on the trail. At frequent locations, obstacles were removed and the trail tread was cleared of debris as we advanced into the wilderness. Like hundreds of times before while working on trails in Vermont, this ad-hoc crew worked together like a well-oiled machine. Every move counts as you handle the biting saws and the tenuous overhead branches. I especially enjoyed observing the magic of the two-man saw as it made quick work of the big stuff. Sandy and Dick had particularly good rhythm with it. Paul was the engineer employing the right lever and fulcrum, made on site, to pry loose the occasionally pinched saw. Mike toiled with the rest of us including toting and using his 35mm SLR camera. I didn't see if it was digital or film.

I'm not sure but I think I might have finally become accustomed to the biting insects of the Dacks. I know that I pulled up the hood of my light weight layer often to keep them off my ears and

neck. Nobody's bug dope seemed to repel the persistent bastards. After we cleared one more blowdown, several blowdowns later, we stopped for lunch. I was very thankful for this respite and the nourishment. Keeping up with the energy of this group was no easy task. Did I mention that I was the youngest at 65? Mary has been working with the ADK and the North Country Trail since 1981, approaching a 40-year milestone. She is an incredible dynamo and great model for us all. It has been an honor and privilege to talk and learn about her efforts with trail development and the myriad of land managers, regulations, and permitting challenges for building out the NCT. We share a common avocation.

After lunch, we proceeded further into the forest preserve until we reached a stream crossing. Since the crew had given a great measure of effort and it was getting late, we started our way back. Thinking that we cleared roughly three miles of trail, I realized what a drop in the bucket that is compared to the entire 4700 miles of NCT between North Dakota and Vermont. The North Country Trail Association has over 30 chapters and 130 affiliate non-profits such as the ADK, and government organizations who organize and maintain roughly 3,700 miles of off-road trails.

The ADK members travel long distances (200-250 miles round trip) from Central NYS to the Adirondacks, so when we arrived back at the trailhead, we did not linger. We did have enough time to revel in our efforts and enjoyed some shared snacks and beverages. Back at Speculator, five went west and I went east back home to Vermont. This route I have traveled many times in the 25 years since I have lived in the Mad River Valley. A favorite stopping place to get out of the car is the Crown Point, Champlain Bridge. What a nice recreation opportunity to be able to walk up and over this majestic vertical crest that offers some fine views of the Adirondacks in New York and the Green Mountains in Vermont. This evening was no exception, there being one fine sunset as I reached the summit. I lingered to enjoy the post sunset glory of the clouds lighting up and the constant cool breeze coming off the lake, contemplating my next visit.

I look forward to my continuing adventures on the NCT in NYS this summer. I will keep you posted. 🍁

...see pictures on next page





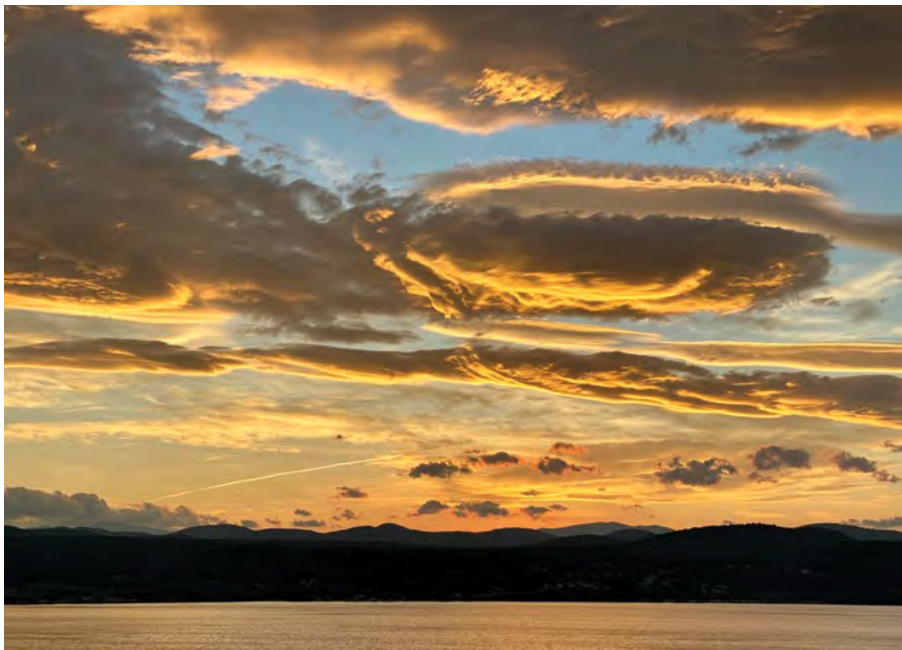
*Mary Coffin leading the workers across an existing bridge.*



*Two-man saws are perfect here, especially since chain saws aren't permitted.*



*Weary farewells at the end before everybody drives home, in many directions.*



*Sunset from the bridge across Lake Champlain.*

*Photos by Kevin Russell*



# Trail Topics: Trail Maintenance

Jon Bowen, VP of Trail Maintenance



**CHANGES:** Don Bergman has retired as co-RTC in western New York. This is the Foothill's Hiking Club area, Conservation Trail and main trail maps 1-3. Don has been very active on Alley Cat projects, and has been one of two RTCs for this far western part of the trail for several years now. Fortunately, a few people have "stepped up." This section of trail will have RTC by committee. Jeanne Moog will continue to co-RTC by handling all the paperwork, Donna Ruszaj will answer trail report emails and will organize work trips, while Frank Occhiuto has volunteered to serve as RTC with Jeanne.

Marty Howden is retiring as RTC (maps M4-6). Marty has been the RTC for a long time now, from the Main Trail's M4 junction with the Conservation Trail, all the way east to the Genesee River on Map M6. That section is all individual sponsors, no clubs, so Marty has had to be helpful to each of these people or couples. So we are still looking for someone to serve as RTC. **Anyone interested?** Let me know [jkbowen@gmail.com](mailto:jkbowen@gmail.com).

One new sponsor is needed for the main trail on Map M4 to replace Ken Shaw, from the junction with the Conservation Trail east to the edge of the Cobb property, so there is a lot of handsome deep forest to tidy trail through, plus some sections that do require mowing. Ironically part of Ken's section was the field with a view pictured on our last back cover. Less than 2.5 miles. Since Marty is retiring, contact Jon Bowen if interested.

News on **M5:** DEC is going to let out a bid for logging on M5 from Rushford Rd. to Swift Hill Rd. This logging will take place from late fall to early winter.

Regional Trail Coordinator Pat Monahan has welcomed two new trail maintainers for the **Crystal Hills Trail**. Grigory Kolesov and Lada Sycheva have been learning the tricks of trail maintenance over the summer in West Hill State Forest in Steuben County. Pat bumped into them on the trail in very early spring as trail runners (not Pat) and both wanted to volunteer with the FLT. So far, they have completely rehabbed West Hill State Forest. Welcome.

**M20** Peter Dady, RTC. Cortland County.

In need of a trail maintainer or two for Hoxie Gorge SF and for the new small FLTC property off Stone Rd. near McGraw. If interested contact Peter Dady for more info. [Dady@toast.net](mailto:Dady@toast.net)

The Hoxie Gorge SF section is 5 miles but can be broken up into 2 sections. Moderately hilly over some steep ravine/valleys stream crossings. Some weed eating but mostly general trail clearing.

The new section will require weed eating and sponsor may be able to help with a possible trail relocation onto the FLTC property but not definite at this time. The current landowners are fine with us using the existing right of ways over their lands.

**M21, O1** ADK  
ONONDAGA CHAPTER  
Tony Rodriguez, RTC

Earlier this year, due to misuse, the landowner for the trail descending from Maxon Creek State Forest (Map O1) to route 13 mandated immediate closure of that section. Without hesitation Mary Coffin initiated the search for an alternate route by contacting pertinent local residents, Town officials, and DEC forester in order to reconnoiter for a feasible alternate reconnection to the existing trail. After clearing all formalities an alternate route was tracked, GPSed, cleared, blazed, approved, and opened, as follows:

Maps O1, M21: The previously closed private land section of trail descending from Maxon Creek SF (Campbell Hill) to route 13 has been rerouted and is now open. The new route will exit the forest onto Pardee Road and proceed down that road to Crains Mills Road, then turn right down to route 13 where you will turn left. Proceed on route 13 past a fishing access parking area to the intersection at West Keeney Road to connect with the existing trail to proceed north.

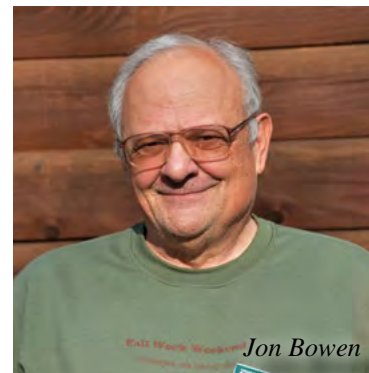
**Trail Maintenance Roles:** Our website has definitions for maintenance roles, but in case you have not looked at this lately, see the following.

**Sponsors** are individuals or organizations who agree to manage the maintenance of one or more **trail sections**. **Sponsoring organizations** are clubs, agencies, and other kinds of groups. Organizations have an individual who acts as **Trails Chairperson** or equivalent.

Sponsors may be nominated by the VP for Trail Maintenance for **Class 1 membership** after one year of service and may be granted by BOM action. Dues are \$0.00 and sponsors are entitled to one vote at membership meetings and one copy of *FLT News*. Class 1 membership is extended until terminated by the VP for Trail Maintenance.

Sponsors report to the **Regional Trail Coordinator (RTC)** responsible for the sponsor's trail sections.

Sponsors manage the individual trail maintainers within their sponsorship. Trails Chairpersons manage the members of their organization, along with other non-member individuals if permitted by the organization. A Trails Chairperson may be one of their own trail maintainers.



Jon Thomas



**Trail maintainers** are assigned one or more trail sections by a club sponsor. Other Trail Maintainers may be “floaters” with no assigned section, or a member of **work crews** assembled for tasks beyond the scope of a single Trail Maintainer. After one year of service, Trail Maintainers may renew their individual or family membership in the FLTC at a 50% discount in dues.

Trail maintainers may be called **Stewards, Adoptors**, or other terms by various organizations. These terms are synonymous as far as the FLTC is concerned.

Meanwhile, there are many sections of trail sponsored by an individual or pair of people. The **individual sponsor** is just as responsible as a club would be, except normally for a shorter trail section. That sponsor is also eligible for a zero fee membership after a year of effective work.

All sponsors are responsible for landowner relations within their trail section, whether private individual landowners or, say, DEC foresters or Park administrators.

### Notes from Jon:

During the spring I was doing quite a bit of hiking near both ends of the main trail. Some sections of the trail had an abundance of blazing while other sections were difficult to follow. Reminder again that when standing at a blaze the hiker should see the next blaze in both directions. When there is a turn, there should be a double blaze with the top one offset in the direction of travel.

Picture #1 is a double blaze but no direction is indicated. Fortunately for me, this was an area that was over-blazed, so there was no problem finding the trail. Picture #2 again has the double blaze without the turning direction, but the maintainer has added an additional arrow to help. Picture #3 is the standard (correct) blaze with the top one offset in the direction of travel.

Another picture is of Kathy Bowen with weed whip. Easier to carry and no hydrocarbons! Always starts, even in the cold.



*Photos by Jon Bowen*

### Help Needed, from Editor Irene:

The **Huckleberry Bog Nature Trail** on Map B3 turned out to be a raging success over the last twenty-some years, where people from all over the world have walked the loop, many of them using the laminated trail and nature guides that reference numbered tags on intermittent trees. But time passes, and of the three of us who built the loop trail, Bob Muller has died, and neither Steph Spittal nor I can walk the trail any more. While there is a new trail sponsor there, Larry Telle, the nature trail part just isn't his gig.



Jon Bowen

So we need an additional volunteer who IS a nature weenie, and will monitor both the metal numbered tags (a few have disappeared) and the nature guide itself. Apparently some of the “nature” has been bratty enough to change, making the guide book an occasional liar!

Joan Young, otherwise famous for walking the whole North Country Trail over twenty years, also knows plants and trees very well, so volunteered recently to spend two days walking the loop and making notes intended for a revision to the booklet. She will share her pictures and notes with our new nature-weenie

volunteer, and we'll beg Rob Hughes and his science class to re-do the wonderful booklet this winter.

Without this volunteer, the Huckleberry Bog Nature Trail will just disappear, so I hope passionately to hear from somebody soon! Irene Szabo, former trail sponsor there, 585/494-0307, [treeweenie@aol.com](mailto:treeweenie@aol.com) 🍁

**Contact:** Jon Bowen  
325/638-8749  
[jkbowen@gmail.com](mailto:jkbowen@gmail.com)



# Trail Topics: Trail Quality

Lynda Rummel, VP for Trail Quality



## A Trail Silver Lining Play Book

Back in the days when I was the Regional Trail Coordinator for Watkins Glen West (i.e., Bath – Watkins Glen), I had a most embarrassing experience that still makes me cringe when I think about it. I was “kicked out” of a landowner’s house! To this day, I don’t think I actually did anything wrong. Rather, I just caught her at the wrong moment, and I clearly didn’t react to the moment very well.

What I did know was that she had called the office demanding that the trail be removed from her property and claiming that she hadn’t known it was on her property. I was out of state, so a trail colleague went to her house, situated rather remotely in the hills of eastern Steuben County, to talk with her about it. Apparently she was a bit frightened by a stranger appearing at her door, so nothing was resolved before I returned home. However, my colleague did learn that her husband had died fairly recently.

Before going to meet with her, I spent a few hours digging through old records at the FLTC office, and I found a file with her husband’s name on it buried in boxes we had removed from Howard and Dorothy Beye’s basement after Howard passed in 2008. Inside were papers dating back 35 years to when Howard, then our Trail Manager, arranged with her husband for the trail to follow the back line of their property. There was even a hand-drawn map meticulously notated to show where the trail was allowed to go, and there was a letter from her husband granting his permission. How was it possible that the trail had been on their land for 35 years and she hadn’t known it?

So I studied the terrain maps and the tax maps to see what alternatives we might have. Alas, the best route through the area was along her back property line and if we lost that, we might have a major reroute on our hands because hers was the middle property in a string of parcels that got us from one road to the next. I called and made an appointment to meet with her. When I drove up, I found her struggling with a pipe leak spewing water all over her kitchen. Her frustration and irritation were obvious. “Not a good time to talk” was my first thought and I should have left right then, but I’d driven an hour and a half to see her, so I pressed ahead anyway and explained that I had found records indicating that her husband had given his permission for the trail to be where it was. Bad decision on my part. I should have taken my reading of her stress to heart and left. Instead, I just added to her distress and irritation.

A week or so later I called and asked to see her. She said she would see me but she was not going to reconsider and hoped I wouldn’t ask. I said I had some information to share with her.

At our next meeting, her house situation was much calmer, although the signs of the water leak were obvious. She became quite agitated when I *showed* her (very gently and diplomatically or so I thought) the materials from the FLTC files that proved we had permission for the trail to be on her property. Of course I said that this kind of thing would have been easy to forget, and I asked her whether there was any particular reason why she wanted us off the land after all these years. She said she was afraid of people hiking on the trail. Surprised, of course I said, “After all these years?” “Well, yes,” she

said, her voice rising, “I didn’t know the trail was on our land!” At that point, I asked again whether in light of the documentation, she might reconsider, and she literally screamed at me, “You said you wouldn’t ask me again, so get out.” Sputtering, I tried to speak, so she said again, “Get out.” And so I did. I was mortified.

Not long thereafter, after asking other landowners for permission, we rerouted the trail to just the other side of that boundary and took it at an angle across the face of a small hill to where it could rejoin the existing trail. It turned out to be a small reroute after all, and in the process of seeking the permissions, I received a handwritten note granting permission for the trail to slant across the hillside. The handwriting was old style, the note of permission was written rather formally, and the return address was a retirement community, so I assumed the writer was an older person. I was touched by the handwriting so sent him a handwritten note thanking him for granting us permission.

Fast forward a couple of years and one of “my” wonderful trail sponsors tracked down our new landowner, to make sure everything was right with him as far as the trail goes. This led to an opportunity to ask him for a Trail Access Easement (TAE), a decision which the landowner said he was going to leave up to his daughters, who would inherit the property. Fast forward a couple more years, and in response to President Monahan’s annual appeal letter, our landowner wrote back, again in his lovely old-style penmanship, and said that while he could not give money, he had decided he could give a Trail Access Easement. The trail section sponsor immediately jumped into action and got a straightforward TAE signed, notarized, and filed within days. Then, this past May, we learned that our landowner with the lovely old-style handwriting and giving heart had passed.

While the sting of embarrassment still hurts whenever I think of my encounter with the landlady who had owned the property for 35 years but whose husband, apparently, hadn’t told her about the trail, the outcome, a TAE, was more than I could have dreamed of or hoped for. Of course, gentle readers, as I recounted my tale, you saw the mistakes I made. I had some lessons to learn, and here is what I learned: First, sometimes there is no good time to try to get a landowner to change his/her mind. Be sensitive to that possibility and back away; secondly, objective truth isn’t going to create change if the person has been embarrassed by the existence of that truth; third, there usually is a work-around available, it just takes some time to find it; and fourth, yes, humiliation and being forced to relocate can have a silver lining. In this case, after thanking the new landowner for his great generosity, we also let him know that we appreciated the simple fact that he had written us in his own hand, and the section sponsor spent some time visiting with him. How sad it will be if the coronavirus hampers these kinds of interactions, but I know our trail sponsors will continue to look for alternatives when they have to and will nurture relationships with our generous landowners as best they can. 🍁

**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

In the last issue of *FLT News* we were able to share exciting news about the protection of a permanent trail route east from Hoxie Gorge State Forest. Elsewhere in this issue, Mary Coffin, who took the lead on this project, has filled in more of the details. We're excited about this acquisition and look forward to more opportunities to protect permanently key trail link parcels like this one.



Bodhi Rogers

I want to pause a moment and reflect on what it takes. Money, of course, if we can't protect the trail with a landowner donated easement and we need to purchase a key link. This one took \$63,100 of our Sidote Trail Preservation Funds. But perhaps more than by money, we are limited by volunteer resources. I went back to my files for this project and started counting: 168 emails (and those are only the ones I thought needed saving), 40 attached files, 75 draft or final Word, Excel or Powerpoint documents. Board Meeting presentations. Preliminary memos with the landowner, requests for appraisal bids, the appraisal contract, an offer to purchase, counter offers, requests to bid for survey, contract for survey. A Planning Board subdivision application. Multiple field visits by local FLT volunteers as they honed in on the exact borders of the parcel to

be purchased. Volunteers after the transaction closed, putting up the boundary signs and making evaluations and recommendations on potential improvements to the parking area and kiosk signage.

But what's the real limitation? Perhaps it's not volunteers as such; after all, we have a lot of really dedicated FLT folks who might be willing to help the next project along. I'd submit that it is that someone **must see the opportunity**. We need you, our local volunteers, the Regional Trail Coordinators, one of our Landowner Relations volunteers, one of our hundreds of trail stewards or even one of our landowners to identify the opportunity. To sound out the landowner, to have eyes and ears open looking for potential easement or property donations or, if that isn't a possibility, purchase opportunities. Mary Coffin took the lead for us on this project, and as her article details, it took a lot of patience and persistence. There are other key parcels out there. Other landowners who might be in a position to donate an easement or sell us a slice. The next key parcel we protect is more likely to happen if one of YOU decides to push the project, as Mary did here. Consider yourself asked. 🍁

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

*The North Country Trail Association held a virtual annual awards ceremony August 6th, during which our Dave Newman received a Trail Protector Award for his creative work getting the most bang for our bucks protecting vulnerable properties along the trail route, whether by working with the Finger Lakes Land Trust, or selling to the state's Dept. of Environmental Conservation, or buying outright with our Sidote Fund money.*

## FLT MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# Trail Topics: Map Updates

*Greg Farnham, Director of Mapping*



Many maps were updated since the last issue.

M27 was updated to reflect a major reroute of the spur trail to Oquaga Creek State Park. The length of the spur is unchanged at 2.2 miles but it now joins the main trail 0.4 miles south (trail east) of the previous junction. In addition, three bivouac sites were removed as they were too close to roads.

M18 was updated thrice to reflect multiple reroutes, and a change to the hunting closure near Blackman Hill Road.

M17 and the Abbott Loop maps were updated to reflect a reroute near Michigan Hollow Road.

A bivouac site was added to the English Loop map, which also shows on the M19, Spanish Loop and International Loop maps.

M25 had a reroute around a closed gravel pit near NY 12.

M26 was rerouted on the west end of the map due to disruption caused by logging.

B2 was updated for hunting closure changes.

The previously closed private land section of the O1 trail descending from Maxon Creek SF (Campbell Hill) to route 13 has been rerouted and is now open. The new route exits the State Forest via Pardee Road and proceeds down that road to Crains Mills Road. This change shows on M21 which was subsequently updated.

Many corrections of miscellaneous typographical and other changes, not affecting trail location or hunting closures, were also implemented.

The mapping team has been kept surprisingly active during the life changes required by the pandemic. While many other recreational opportunities have been curtailed, the FLT remains open under appropriate social hygiene conditions. Our illustrious Interactive Map creator Roger Hopkins has done lots of work improving the interactive map with new functionality. While some of his work is invisible to the public, the rest of the mapping team is pleased to have his ingenious updates making our work much easier. Roger's dedication to the FLTC is often noticed, alas rarely mentioned. He spends countless hours reviewing our map work, on top of all the time he spends making the Interactive Map better for everyone.

From the perspective of the mapping team, there seems to be no decline in the volume of mapping updates even during the pandemic restrictions; the nature of the changes we implement seems to reflect a more diverse public use of our trails. Although we don't take attendance, and the use of our FLT is free to everyone, I would bet the last 3-4 months have seen much more first-time use than in any previous year.

While many State and National trails are closed, and many have more stringent distancing issues, the FLT is open. I think this is affording opportunities for more hikers new to the FLT. The FLT is also much less crowded than many other options. In fact, using the adjective "crowded" to describe the FLT is kind of far-fetched in an ironic manner.

Although I'm not able to walk on the FLT, as I'm currently parked in Ohio, I do walk on the Ohio-Erie Canal Towpath every day. People seem to be wearing masks more often, and everyone seems a bit friendlier, waving or saying hello, while not getting close. I get a feeling that those of us enjoying the out-of-doors are happy to see others who are doing the same in a responsible manner. Even though I cover the same 12 miles every day, it always looks different to me, due to the light, the season, and the wildlife. Some days I see the same people, or the same four Great Blue Herons, or different turtles, blossoms that have opened and then wilted.

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. 🍁



Greg Farnham

*My new avatar, a heron I see frequently along the canal I walk daily.*

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

# Trail Topics: Alley Cat Update

*Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews and Construction*



It is 11p.m.; do you know what reopening stage we are in?

Borrowing from WKBW's newscast phrase "It's 11 p.m., do you know where your children are?" that preceded each nightly news cycle that those of you from Buffalo have heard, all of the state is in Stage 4 of the COVID reopening phase. When I was cancelling many of the Alley Cats back in May, it wasn't apparent what each stage would allow a community to do outside of what businesses could open. It was a surprise to me to hear that groups of ten and twenty-five and more could congregate in Phase 3 and 4 and had this information been made public earlier, it may have influenced the Alley Cat schedule. Since then, I was able to reschedule the Kanakadea lean-to project that will involve using a new lean-to design by Rob Hughes and Big Beams Timber Frames. While this project will have already been completed by the time you read this article, Peter Wybron, Mike Ogden and Rob Hughes were very gracious and flexible to schedule it for August 18<sup>th</sup> thru the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rob had a lot of work to fabricate the pinned lean-to design he is well-known for as these take many hours to create as some of you may have seen at the International Symposium in Syracuse last year but as of this writing, everything is on schedule. It was also very nice to hear from Peter that he has a full crew already for both the Kanakadea and Hesse lean-to Alley Cats. There are a lot of new names on each volunteer roster and it is great to see that through the wonderful work Christy Post is doing via social media that we are attracting new faces to work on them. A photo of the new lean-to design that has been engineer-certified shows the new awning overhang and some new ways to support the height of the structure.

Protective Personal Equipment is being provided at each Alley Cat that will include face masks and hand sanitizer to name a few along with a process to socially distance and clean equipment before and after use. Volunteers will be asked to social distance, wear their masks at all times and be aware of those around them as these projects take place. If you do not feel well, please stay home and let the project manager know you can't make it that day. We also ask you to let us know if at some point over the next two weeks following the Alley Cat you contract COVID-19 so we can alert others who participated in the project about this development.

The Solon Alley Cat is still scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup> with some changes. The first is that we are not providing lodging due to the pandemic. It is impossible to socially distance in cabins, campgrounds and the Airbnb's where I had wanted to host the crews this year. The project will still involve trail improvement and creating switchbacks in Baker School House State Forest. My interest in using stepping stones to cross the creek near the state forest was not approved by the Cortland Soil and Water Conservation District. A decision that stones would impede water and wildlife flow down Trout Brook was made and their recommendation was to install a bridge at this location. So I am

back to the drawing board to locate a design that the DEC will approve. We will still need volunteers to help with this Alley Cat who can either day travel to the site or stay nearby at their expense. Social distancing will be relatively simple if we only perform the trail improvement part of the Alley Cat. If the DEC does approve a bridge we feel is appropriate for this location, an update will be made on the FLTC Alley Cat page and social media sites. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Mary Coffin at maryccoffin@gmail.com.

The boardwalk project on the Bristol Hills Trail was also rescheduled to occur this year due to the changes Stage 4 of the opening phase allowed for and has since been postponed again. The proposal was to split the boardwalk into two sections to accommodate a turn in the trail at that location. The design of the boardwalk requires a special starting and ending piece for the structure to be set up correctly, so I am working with Wickcraft either to obtain a second starting/ending piece or a custom designed section that will allow the structure to be one continuous piece. As soon as that information is received a decision will be made either to use the boardwalk at that location or install puncheons to accommodate the need on that section of the Bristol Trail and move the boardwalk to another site.

We did receive a lean-to donation late last year that may be going up in Ludlow State Forest. The current lean-to has become a social spot for locals in the area and is covered in graffiti. Attempts have been made to remove the graffiti but more is created over time, so I am assessing the possibility of using the lean-to donation to build a new one much farther into the state forest that will hopefully deter the locals from partying there as they would have to hike a significant distance to get to it. The existing lean-to is a log lean-to that is utterly massive and in excellent shape. Conversations with the DEC have taken place about the existing lean-to and the tentative agreement is that the structure will be moved to a new location in the state. While we could move the current lean-to deeper into the forest, the weight of the logs and paths we would make to do so, would only invite the locals an easy access to it. The current lean-to isn't far from the road which makes relocation possible. If you have ever worked on these log lean-tos, I would welcome your insight as to how they were built, how we may disassemble them, and what tools were used to move the pieces into place.

It is also that time of the year when, if you have projects in mind that may require an Alley Cat, please send them to me as soon as possible. Your guess is as good as mine as to what extent any Alley Cats may run next year and the limitations that may be upon us at that time, but we must look to the future as this will be over at some time. Trail work is never done! 🍁

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



# Hesse Shelter Repair and Improvements Map M7

*Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator*



The Hesse Lean-to's rotting and leaking roof was replaced in September 2017 with the help of the Hesse family. The late Bruce N. Hesse (grandfather) built the shelter from salvaged materials from old barns and railroad ties for the use of the Royal Rangers, a Christian youth group, his family, and hikers on the main trail. There is an easement granted by Bruce N. protecting the trail and lean-to forever. As usual, the Hesse family assisted in every way possible with this 2017 renovation. (Bruce D, son of late Bruce N. and his two sons, and their two sons worked with the crew.) This is also the site of the memorial stone for Wally Wood, founder of the FLTC.

Then the usual thirty years of shelter-life were curtailed by mother nature. A large fallen tree knocked the roof off but luckily did not destroy it.

This August the roof was dismantled, the support repaired, a fire ring installed, and a privy was dug by a crew organized and led by Project Manager, Peter Wybron and Construction Manager Kenny Fellers. Doug Hesse, now the landowner of his grandfather's property, not only helped prepare the site and brought in the materials, but also crewed the entire project. With Doug's backhoe and



Peter Wybron

*Just after we reroofed the shelter, a tree fell on the roof a year ago.*



Jacqui Wensich

*New toilet under construction. This campsite had not featured such a facility before.*



Peter Wybron



Dave Newman

*New fiberglass facility, with privacy screen. This design and installation is accessible even by a person in a wheel-chair.*



Dave Newman's help, the privy was finished quickly. It usually takes long hours to dig down six feet!

The crew was relatively small but motivated and energetic. The weather was perfect, and the area is always in shade. Pete, our Beth Wheeler, and Doug Hesse worked on the new puncheon at the bottom of the hill that approaches the lean-to. This is one of the few small creeks that is never dry according to Doug, and runs very cold, so must be spring-fed, according to our Editor. Upon completion, Peter presented Doug with the original lean-to sign preserved for its new home. Doug, "I can't say thank you enough. It really means a lot to me and my family. I'm not the type of person who gets choked up, but when the plaque was presented it got me."

The accommodations were also provided by Doug and his wife Samantha Hesse. Some camped on the site or stayed in their vehicles only five minutes away from the work site. Peter arranged for the porta-potty. The crew was able to walk back for lunch which was a real time saver. Doug even loaned his pellet smoker/grill for the cause and the use of their large basement refrigerator. I had my new RV hooked up to their water and 30V electric. I asked Doug why he had this much power? "My Dad's an electrician." Bruce N. established Hesse Electric in Dalton which was taken over by his son Bruce D. Son Neil works with his dad there.

The project was completed in less than two full days because of the preparation of Doug, Peter and Kenny. Bob Kremens managed the last morning. Food preparation was done by me, receiving much thanks and nice comments. No one went away hungry. We practiced social distancing for meals and meetings. Peter provided a handwashing station. We enjoyed quiet evenings with Doug and Samantha. nine-year-old Scooby, chief scrounger and charmer, also enjoyed many treats and scrooches. He did wash the plates.

...story continued on page 16



Jacqui Wensich

Pete Wybron, right, presented Doug Hesse with preserved original lean-to sign.



Jacqui Wensich

Friday night dinner by Jacqui Wensich: smoked country ribs, salt potatoes, corn, asian slaw, peach cobbler for dessert.





*Pete and Beth built new puncheon to help hikers get beyond the spring running past the trail coming in from the road. This water is always strikingly cold!*

Jacqui Wensich

*...story continued from page 15*

Alley Cat Crews work on major trail construction projects. These projects may require months of advanced planning and preparation and the projects themselves may take from several days to a week. They involve construction of trail infrastructure such as lean-tos and bridges, and major trail building or rerouting. Crews are organized by the FLTC's Director of Crews & Construction. Projects are done with assistance and local coordination provided by the Trail Sponsoring organization or individual.

Major projects are called "Alley Cats". The name is derived from the FLTC system of trails that begins in the Allegany Mts. and ends in the Catskills.

## By Dave Newman, Crew Member

Just got home from our Alley Cat to repair the Hesse Lean-to's (Map M7) recently replaced roof which had been caved in by a falling tree. The project went faster than originally anticipated. The metal roof and roof deck was removed, the side walls were then taken down about four tiers. But the crew was able to put them back up again, where the original plan had sufficient lumber delivered to the site to totally replace the upper side walls if they were too damaged. After installing a new ridge pole, front ridge pole, and all new rafters, the decking was able to be reused as was all of the relatively new metal roofing except some edge trim. This lean-to was originally constructed of re-purposed square timbers, which show a lot of interesting evidence of their former lives, so it's good we could re-use more of it.

Current landowner Doug Hesse, grandson of the original Hesse who built the lean-to, worked with our crews to deliver materials to the site with his ATV and used his backhoe to dig the privy hole in what probably was record time for the FLT. Everything is back in condition for visitors, complete with a new fire ring that four adult men literally could not lift, resulting in skidding it from where the tractor dropped it off to its permanent location by using a come-along winch. It's a pretty sure bet that lean-to users won't be moving it anyplace (and, just to be sure, Doug was going to anchor it with some spare rebar). Construction manager Kenny Fellers, Project Manager Peter Wybron, crew cook Jacqui Wensich.



*Scooby Hesse, chief plate washer.*

Jacqui Wensich

*The people who participated in that project were Peter Wybron, Kenny Fellers, Jacqui Wensich, Doug Hesse, Dave Newman, Greg Boyer, Beth Wheeler, Bob Kremens, Michelle McCall, and Valerie Polachak.*



## Historic Members

*Heide Seaman Mahlke (#90 end-to-end) reminds us that the original design for the "new" basic FLT T-shirt was done by her artist husband, Ernest. Quinn didn't tell our readers that when he came out with the "new" shirt, because he wasn't even around back when Ernest, 90, was on our board, so didn't know. This worn example is an "old" one.*



Irene Szabo

## THANKS TO OUR TRAIL LANDOWNERS

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

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

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

## FOR SALE

*40 lbs. adventure Kayak  
Includes paddle, life preserver,  
slider  
**\$200***

*CONTACT: Jacqui Wensich  
Located in Rochester suburb  
[jwensich@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jwensich@rochester.rr.com)  
585/385-2265*





# Hiking Through History...Near Hammondsport (Part 1)

## Kirk House



Hiking is a good way to connect with nature, but there are certain stretches that also connect us with history as we hike. And we can pack in a huge amount of history on a single half-mile on Map M12 of the Finger Lakes Trail, in the Town of Urbana near Hammondsport (Steuben County).

We can pick up the trail at County Route 88 in Pleasant Valley, just about across from the Urbana town building. Heading westward we pass through a lovely vineyard... grapes have been cultivated in Pleasant Valley for almost 200 years... then dip down a short slope into the woods, and over a footbridge across the Keuka Inlet, near where it receives Mitchellsville Creek. A short distance more, and we connect with history by crossing the old abandoned Bath & Hammondsport Railroad. We've been walking more or less in step with the train tracks, the stream, and the Fish Hatchery Road.

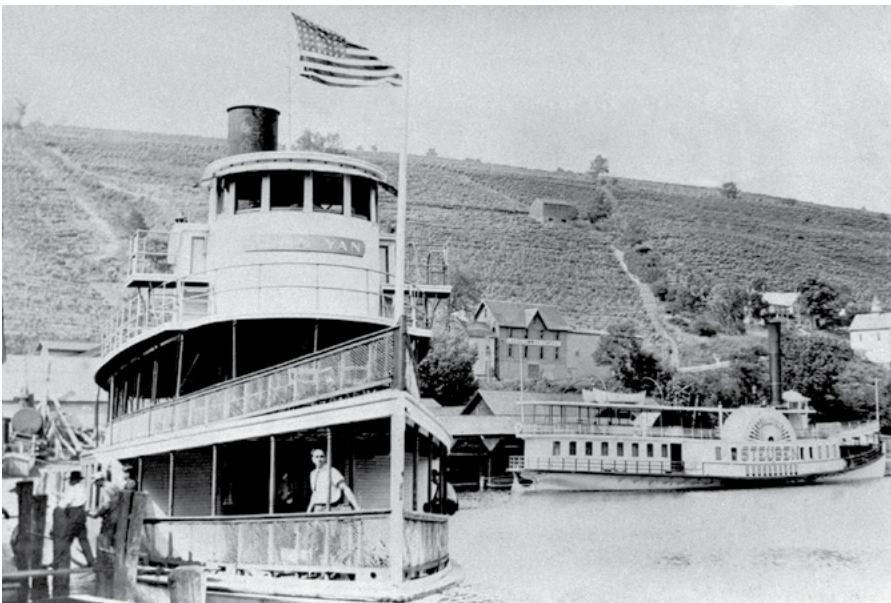
Iroquois days; the Fish Hatchery Road; the B&H Railroad; a turn-of-the-century bicycle sidepath along the edge of Fish Hatchery; and yet another footpath, the Finger Lakes Trail, proving that the more things change the more they stay the same.

At least as far back as the 1820s there were schemes to dig a canal along the route; that never happened, but the railroad bridged the gap in the 1870s.

The railroad carried out tons of grapes and numberless gallons of wine, making both enterprises truly successful in the Hammondsport area. They also carried out first motorcycles and then airplanes for Glenn Curtiss. Without the B&H he could not have created his industrial operations. He might have ended his days in obscurity at the bike shop, or he would have had to move... at least to Bath... and make someplace else the "Cradle of Aviation."

With separate railroads coming in to Penn Yan and Hammondsport, Keuka Lake also became a tourism destination, where visitors connected from the train to a steamboat, then were whisked away to lakeside resorts. Finger Lakes tourism came to be in the years after the Civil War.

Back at the current Fish Hatchery Road you'll find the lovely historic Grange hall a few rods down to the left, with wineries and



*A lake steamer at the foot of Keuka Lake and the beach at Hammondsport, early tourist fun.*

This illustrates how geography formed the settlement and economic patterns of the area. The rivers and lakes were highways back in the 1790s, and Keuka Lake at Hammondsport (then called "Pegtown") was joined to the Conhocton River at Bath by Pleasant Valley... a long portage between the two bodies of water.

Slopes rise on either side, constricting travel. Five "highways" laid out over centuries overlie each other here, roughly following the stream: a footpath going back probably before



*The Bath and Hammondsport depot still stands at the beach on Keuka Lake, nicely redecorated as a shop.*



Hammondsport beyond, but dominating all else is Pleasant Valley Cemetery. Land agent Charles Williamson gave 50 acres of ground in the 1790s for a school-and-cemetery lot. The four-room school continued until the 1950s and was succeeded by a Mennonite church, and that property is now private. Thousands rest in the still-active cemetery, where Glenn Curtiss was brought home in 1930 at the age of 52; ten airplanes flew overhead and dropped flowers on the crowd.

To the right, the road swings around toward the 19th-century fish hatchery and Bath. In the 1850s this was a private-enterprise plank road, with a tollgate just a few rods down. Alexander Graham Bell came this way to visit Glenn Curtiss in 1908, and young Curtiss traveled it himself, on his bike, a decade earlier. In the 1930s future film critic Charles Champlin biked this way to Bath for cornet lessons while generals and admirals used the route to inspect the airplane factory during World War I. Thirty-four year-old lawyer Benjamin Bennett drove his horse-drawn rig this way on business in 1861, becoming the first Hammondsporter to hear about the Civil War. When he got to Bath, he enlisted on the spot. Curtiss roared his early motorcycles, some of America's first and best, along this route.

Continuing eastward on the FLT we cross the very busy State Route 54, which turned Fish Hatchery Rd. into a mere byway when it was opened after World War II. Horses, oxen, mules, and early motor vehicles would not have managed that hill on the way to Bath. Modern vehicles do, and that's also history.

*In our next issue, visit this valley again to see evidence of aviation history and the still active wine industry.* 🍁

*This steam locomotive on the Bath and Hammondsport Railroad still exists, running in Pennsylvania at a tourist railroad.*



## FOR SALE



CONTACT: Irene Szabo  
Bergen, SW of Rochester  
585/494-0307, [treeweenie@aol.com](mailto:treeweenie@aol.com)

17 foot Kevlar Old Towne canoe  
57 lbs, approx. 30 years old. **\$700**  
Three quality paddles, two jackets.





# End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator



## Main Trail:

#479 Jeffrey Poulin, Endicott

#480 Janet Myers Brooks

#481, 367 (2<sup>nd</sup>) Scott Brooks, Pittsford

## Branch Trail:

#127 Scott Vonderheide (#404), Alfred

## Updates:

Brad and Judy Holdridge are coming up from Virginia to hike the trail around Ithaca. Elizabeth Downe began her main trail hike this season late, like so many because of the Coronavirus situation. Paul Gardner of Rochester and his stepson are gradually hiking/backpacking the main trail. He has a cabin near the trail. Curtis Lawson of Fayetteville and Michael Clifford plan to hike the main trail. Chris Luley, Naples, is working on the main and branch trails, usually with a 2-3 day backpack. Emily Flagg is over half-way in her main trail quest. Jonathan Schwandt and his son are planning for fifty mile hike from Allegany State Park to M3. Jim Rolfe of Freeville plans multi -year backpacking of the main trail. You can follow other main trail hikers on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FingerLakesTrailGroup/>.

## Comments:

Remember to keep trail notes when you hike. I used to jot down “stuff” on my maps either while on a break or right after hiking. Photos also help. Why keep notes? If you are logging in many miles, they can blend together. Your main or branch trail end to end article is highly prized by readers and other hikers for information and perspective. It can be a few hundred words or a thousand or so. A high-resolution photo is also needed.

## Car Spotter News:

The car spotter list is fluid...it changes. Have your map on hand when you call to make arrangements. Offer to pay for gas after your ride. Take the spotter's photo so we can recognize them in the *News*.

To repeat:

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](mailto: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](mailto:hiking@fingerlakestrail.org)\*\* (often find more spotters and specific location hints.)
3. Purchase new MAPS (remember FLT members receive a 20% discount for all purchases). Waypoints are also available.
4. *Check trail conditions online frequently.*
5. If you are not already a member, join the FLTC. Membership supports this wonderful trail.
6. Let me know about when you plan to complete the main or 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. 🍁

**Contact:** Jacqui Wensich  
[jwensich@rochester.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:lblumberg@stny.rr.com)) and Scott Geiger, ([scott.geiger@gmail.com](mailto:scott.geiger@gmail.com)).

To join the group, send a note to [lblumberg@stny.rr.com](mailto: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.

# Branch Trails End-to-End #127

Scott Vonderheide



When the pandemic became a serious public health risk for New Yorkers, our governor ordered a comprehensive “pause” to contain the spread. Since March, we have all been struggling with the consequences. Fortunately, I was lucky enough to be retired. I didn’t lose my job, although all of my volunteer work came to a halt. My wife was only sort of lucky. As a speech therapist, her work was considered essential. But, to limit exposure, she had to conduct her sessions from home, using the now famous Zoom online video-conferencing program. We both decided, to improve the quality of her work environment, it would be best for me to play outside.

Since the DEC and the FLTC allowed hiking trails to remain open for day-hikers, I put a plan in place to hike the Branch Trails of the FLT. I completed the main trail four years ago. I actually started the branches last summer when I did the Letchworth Trail, so I was aware of what I was getting myself into. I came up with a system to enhance social distancing. I hiked alone and was self-reliant for “shuttling.” I borrowed my daughter’s single-speed beach cruiser. On the day of a hike, first, I would drive to the end of the trail segment I planned to complete. I would hide the bike off the road, chained to a tree. Next, I would drive to the start of the trail and hike back to the bike. Then, I would dress in my hunter orange vest and pedal back to the car. This routine was done repeatedly throughout the spring.

I soon became observant of the contour lines that my bike route would cross. I quickly found out that hiking uphill and riding downhill was much easier. Sometimes, I would break up a day of hiking into more than one section to maximize the pleasure of the downhill coast. Since most roads were in the country, there was usually very little traffic. The only time my pedaling became frantic was when it became necessary to distance myself from a pursuing dog, which happened about a half-dozen times. The most thrilling ride was the one from the north end of the Bristol Hills Trail, starting at 2,000 feet and descending a series of roads to Naples at 800 feet. The most scenic downhill road was the one that descended Morgan Hill, which is along the Onondaga Trail. In fact, I think the Onondaga was also my favorite hiking trail. It has a well-maintained footpath with beautiful scenery, too.

I was concerned that my “hike-and-bike” method would get a bit more dangerous as I approached the northern end of the Conservation Trail, which is in the greater Buffalo area. Instead, I was delighted to discover miles of designated bike paths. Since the Conservation Trail was my last one, the days were getting sunnier and hotter. Hiking along a bike path meant little tree shade. So, I brought along my umbrella to create my own shade. I finished at the Rainbow Bridge, June 18. It was a lovely day at Niagara Falls. Since most tourist attractions were still closed, there were few visitors and social distancing wasn’t a problem even at the most popular viewpoints. Just in case, during my hikes I always had a face mask at the ready.



By an accommodating tourist

Scott Vonderheide

What’s next? There are a couple of trails in Pennsylvania I’m looking forward to exploring this summer. And, I’m planning on the continued use of the “hike-and-bike” method, too, although I think I should probably invest in a more appropriate hybrid-style bike. Finally, the opportunity to hike would not be possible without two amazing groups. First to be thanked are the generous property owners who allow the trails to pass through their lands. Second, thanks go out to all the volunteer trail crew members who create and maintain the trails.

Happy trails 🍁

*Of course, I sold my 21-speed to Scott as soon as I read the above!*  
Editor



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



# The 64 Hours Bo Was Missing - May 2020

Story and Photos by Peg Fuller



Many of us hike with our dogs. Sometimes off leash, sometimes on leash. We never know what we might encounter, but we normally have wonderful hikes, with no problems. But what if? This is my story about when my dog Bo went missing. I can start at the end: Bo is okay, he is home. But the weekend he was missing we had no idea what was going to happen. So here is the whole story.



Friday May 1st. I was out on my property (upstate N.Y.) hiking with Bo, Andie and Tripp. It was about 4 p.m. We were only going on a short walk on my own property, not even a hike. We were up top on the hill behind the house when Bo took off. He ran down our woods trail which he does all the time. He was probably just running to the creek. We head in the direction he has gone. The trail going down the hill is all mud, so I walk slowly so I don't fall, but the dogs don't care. I had a GPS tracker on Bo, Andie and Tripp. By the time I get partially down the trail, the GPS says it has lost connection with Bo. All I have is his last known location according to the GPS. It is still okay; he likes the creek so he is probably in his favorite spot. We get to the creek, no Bo. I can't cross the creek because we had so much rain, so I head back to the house assuming he will be right behind me, like normal. I put the other two dogs in the yard and grab the Ranger (utility vehicle). Then I race back across the creek but still no sign of Bo. Now I am starting to worry because Bo should have been back by now. I try walking the trails yelling for Bo. I try turning the Ranger on and off because Bo knows the noise and likes to ride in it. I hike all over, stopping and listening for a woof, a whimper or the jingle of his collar's bell. Meanwhile my husband Mike jumps in the car driving all the roads but now it is dark. I am beyond upset. We can't search in the dark. I head home to make missing dog posters and start notifying social media, the microchip company and local friends to help. I put Bo's picture and what happened on every Facebook page I can find and I include my email and our phone number. There is no sleep for us.

First thing in the morning I am out looking in the garage and under the deck, hoping Bo found his way home. No luck. Now 5 a.m., Saturday morning, the fog is thick and slows down everyone's drive to the house. Missing dog posters start going out with friends who volunteered to help. We have portable radios so the people searching can talk to each other, and we are trying to organize the groups of volunteer friends into areas to search. We are all

listening for any bark or jingle of the bell on Bo's collar. The foliage has yet to appear on the trees which makes seeing through the woods easier. We are checking under logs and down embankments. Is he alive, is he hurt? Mike radios and says Dave is on his way to the house with his tracking dog Lola, so I head back to the house. Mike gets Bo's bed blanket and I head out with Dave and Lola. We start up on Will Warner Road to work back to the last known

spot. Lola has a good whiff of Bo's blanket and we head into the woods. Lola walks right to the area where the GPS lost Bo and then heads west, pulling hard. We get to an area with a very large fallen tree. Lola goes around it but seems to have lost the scent. We continue on following Lola. We cross over the Finger Lake Trail. My hopes were dashed because I thought Lola would find him. I know staying calm is important but it is near impossible. We have people putting lost dog signs out at houses and at all the FLT trailheads in the area and the fishing access areas. Everyone is searching the woods and the creek. The mud and the high creeks gave most of us soaking wet feet all day.

We have expanded into the neighboring properties. We have people walking the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) from Stage Road to Rt. 26 Fishing Access. We put trail cameras out at the last known location with another piece from Bo's bedding and some of my clothing. We are searching for hours. In between we are checking social media, checking the phones, and trying to stay calm. Searchers saw coyotes, deer, bear and scat while searching. After hours and hours of searching many of us are fatigued and thinking we are hearing Bo or his bell or seeing fur and checking every white thing we see in the distance. The mind plays tricks on you and the end of a fallen log, or a tree stump, can quickly appear to be a downed dog. Funny how you call to a tree stump thinking it's a dog. And the hair from a deer's tail certainly looks like white dog hair. I knock on so many doors and talk to people up Rt. 26 and over to Rt. 16 where there are large farms. Everyone was nice, even in the alarming time of COVID-19 when a stranger knocks on your door holding up a lost dog sign.

It is starting to get dark when I head back inside and Mike heads out to ride around the roads with a spotlight looking to see if he comes out of the woods now that it is dark. I update all the social media sites. Okay, lots to think about and another sleepless night. First thing in the morning I was out in the woods to get the SD cards from the trail cameras. Nothing on the cards, no pictures of

Bo. We start searching again farther out since we searched all of our 85 acres, but nothing.

Monday morning and still no sign of Bo. We need more flyers. I re-checked the social media sites and looked at Google Earth again, just trying to pinpoint where we need to go. As we were heading out the door, the phone rang at 8:21 a.m. Mike answered, and a logger had found him. The logging operation is off Will Warner Road, near Rt. 26, up on that hill. The logger, Justin Pratt of Hopkins Forestry, was keeping Bo with him by luring him with the ham off his sandwich. He said he started his big logging machine and headed up the hill (a flyer was put on his machine the day before). He spotted Bo and called him over. Thankfully, Bo came to the machine and lay down on the track of the machine. He was full of porcupine quills. The guy managed to get the number and call.

Friend Mary and I raced around to that road and started climbing the mud trail up the hill where the logging was. Justin was walking down the trail with Bo following him for pieces of ham. Mary was walking faster than me up through the muddy logging trail when she saw Bo running full speed at her. She hoped he would stop and not run past her. She didn't expect him to launch himself into her arms, porcupine quills and all. She quickly leashed him and he then pulled her down the trail to get to me. As much as he wanted to hug me, I held off on the hug after Mary got quilled in the head by the big Bo hug. Meanwhile Justin caught up to us and said Bo was with him (and the ham) and suddenly took off down the trail. All he could hope was he was running to us and not into the woods again. The emotion of being reunited was intense, with extreme emotions of happiness and relief. After a very quick thank you, we loaded Bo into the back of the car. He was so excited, but also exhausted. He lay on my legs and took a nap on the way to the vet, who thankfully is taking emergency patients during the COVID-19 crisis. It was 64 hours of unknown, worry, agony, and now he was found and on my lap.

I had to leave him at the vet to get all the quills removed. The quills in his side and chest were so deep they had to do incisions and cut them out. He had them in his mouth, snout, face, side and shoulder. Thankfully not his eyes. They gave him IV fluids and B vitamins since he was dehydrated after 64 hours of being gone and he probably didn't drink water or eat the entire time because of the quills. He was put on antibiotics, pain medicine and had a drain tube. I was told more quills might "migrate out" for up to a month or two.

Between Friday night, all day Saturday and all day Sunday, I had people all over the woods, posters everywhere, on every social media site you can think of, people in other states knew about him, updating the sites and rechecking them throughout the day. It was heartwarming to hear how many people knew about Bo. Flyers were everywhere and people were paying attention. The microchip company puts a lost dog notice only out to a limited mile radius from my home. Being rural, that really isn't enough. Our vet is past the radius. So I also made sure we got the flyer to other vets. There is always a possibility someone found him and maybe he is injured and they take him to a vet.

There are some great people in this world and I know one of them works at Hopkins Forestry. Justin Pratt became our rescuer. I think Bo heard the noise of the truck when Justin was working and went to see if it was a good person who could help him. Justin clearly is a compassionate person and there is no way we can thank him enough. He cared enough to help our dog and our family. He even called Monday evening to check to see how Bo was doing.

Getting the word out quickly, and widespread with flyers and social media, was important. Then refreshing and checking all the social media sites had to be done a few times a day. Knowing the area (we used our property maps, hiking apps, and online maps) and having a plan on how to cover it all was also important. Several of the searchers, myself included, felt drawn to the same area. I think after the fact we realized we needed to trust our gut feelings. It became obvious he had been there based on where he was found. The distance from our house to where he was found was approximately three miles. Why did he travel so far in the wrong direction? Wounded animals can be very weird. And finally in early August a few more quills did indeed "migrate" out to the surface! 🍁

## LOST DOG "BO"

**Last seen May 1, 2020 at 4 PM  
between Stage Rd & Will Warner Rd, South Otselic**

- Reddish brown and white Border Collie • About 50 lbs.
- Very friendly • He may be injured or afraid • Microchipped
- Wearing a collar with tags



**MIKE & PEG FULLER AT 463 STAGE RD**

Peg379@gmail.com

~~888 810 8957 or 315 653 7345~~

## REWARD



# A Naturalist's View

D. Randy Weidner



Autumn seems always a season of mixed emotions. It signals the end of summer, which many are sad to see go. But in years like this, marked by excessive heat and too little rain, autumn's shorter days and cooler temperatures provide a welcome relief, invigorating the hikers of the Finger Lakes Trail to venture farther along their favorite stretches. The loss of summer flowers is offset by the brilliance of fall foliage. Birdsong is largely absent, replaced by the rustle of falling leaves and the scolding of squirrels. The lush understory plants of summer are gone, making the view through the woods much clearer again, perhaps affording a glimpse of deer and other timid woodland creatures. And ultimately, as so aptly captured by Robert Frost in the middle stanzas of his poem "Reluctance:"

The leaves are all dead on the ground,  
Save those that the oak is keeping  
To ravel them one by one  
And let them go scraping and creeping  
Out over the crusted snow,  
When others are sleeping.  
And the dead leaves lie huddled and still,  
No longer blown hither and thither;  
The last lone aster is gone;  
The flowers of the witch-hazel wither; .....

Wait, what? Flowers now? Fresh enough to wither after the last aster is gone? Indeed there are. Widely scattered through the woods traversed by the Finger Lakes Trail is the understory tree, American Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*). An eastern woodland tree/shrub, American Witch-hazel ranges from Wisconsin to Louisiana and Nova Scotia to Florida. It can be found on steep, dry slopes, but seems to favor wooded streambanks. American Witch-hazel is a deciduous tree/shrub, often with several stems from a common source, usually reaching less than twenty feet tall, but occasionally rising just over thirty feet in height. When growing singly, the trunk typically leans as much as 60-degrees from horizontal. A comely tree/shrub, American Witch-hazel has smooth grayish-brown bark, which if



D. Randy Weidner

Typical leaf.



D. Randy Weidner

Witch-hazel fruit, a hard yellowish capsule about 3/4" diameter or less.

scratched open reveals an inner bark of reddish-purple. Twigs, which may be finely pubescent and marked with scattered white dots, often branch out in a zig-zag manner. Leaves are oval, about 2 1/2 by 4 inches, reminiscent of native Dogwood (*Cornus*) leaves, with a stout midrib and 6-7 primary, deep, V-shaped leaf veins. American Witch-hazel leaves turn golden-yellow in fall.

But it is the flowers that make American Witch-hazel so special, and why naturalist Edwin Way Teale referred to it as a "botanical individualist." The blossoms grow in clusters, each with four,



Wikipedia

Autumn blossoms, wispy tiny strands of yellow

bright-yellow, thin, ribbon-shaped petals. The calyx is deeply four-parted, orangish, and surrounded by four short, thick, yellow stamens. And uniquely, the American Witch-hazel blooms in fall, often deep into November. These late-in-the-year flowers provide sweet nectar and sticky pollen, attracting the last bees and



gnats as pollinators. While pollinator populations are low in late fall, the American Witch-hazel is successful in attracting them as “the only game in town.” Even so, in most years it is estimated that successful fertilization occurs in only about 1% of flowers. Pollinated flowers form a half inch diameter green fruit encased in a woody capsule which later turns dark brown. A full year after



D. Randy Weidner

*Frequently seen witches hat gall on a witch-hazel leaf.*

formation these capsules burst, explosively ejecting two shiny, black seeds up to thirty feet away. These seeds germinate within two years if not eaten by birds or forest floor mammals.

While this handsome tree/shrub blooms around Halloween, the name ‘Witch-hazel’ deserves some explanation. American Witch-hazel was noticed by early English colonists, and has been recorded from English gardens as far back as the late 1600’s, making it one of the earliest North American plants to be exported back to and cultivated in Europe. The “witch” in the name may be related to the Old English word “wych,” referring to its pliant branches. The “hazel” presumably came from the resemblance of the leaves to the European hazel (*Corylus* sp.) leaves. The pliant nature of American Witch-hazel twigs made it ideal for use as a “divining” or “witching” stick employed for locating underground water sources, and providing another possible source of the tree’s common name. And finally, perhaps the longest stretch of the truth might relate the name to the Witch-hazel Leaf Gall Aphid (*Hormaphis hamamelidis*), which infests the underside of Witch-hazel leaves, depositing eggs and stimulating formation of a triangular, “witch’s hat” shaped gall projecting from the upper side of the leaf.

American Witch-hazel has a long tradition as a medicinal plant. Native Americans produced a decoction by boiling stems to treat swellings, inflammations, and tumors. This use was readily adopted by New England Puritan settlers. Modern research has shown American Witch-hazel tannins, hamamelitannins, prove to be cytotoxic to human colon cancer cells in vitro. American Witch-hazel bark and leaves were also used by Native Americans for external inflammations, and the modern product “Pond’s Extract” is a distillation of American Witch-hazel bark with dilute alcohol. Perhaps the leading use of Witch-hazel extract today is as an astringent on swollen rectal and vaginal membranes. Some modern pharmacologists contend this use is of questionable effectiveness, a claim firmly contradicted by thousands of hemorrhoid sufferers and countless new mothers subjected to episiotomy at childbirth.

As you avail yourselves of the pleasant autumn temperatures and hike the Finger Lakes Trail, watch for American Witch-hazel. You should have no trouble noticing it, the only fall-flowering native tree in our region, with its unique yellow blossoms, there to see when all the trees have shed their leaves. And when you get home and find your feet a bit swollen and sore, try rubbing on a bit of Witch-hazel extract. It just might help.

*But don’t bring home those hard capsules, because in the warmth of your kitchen, they could shoot seeds all over the room overnight.*  
Editor 🍁



D. Randy Weidner

*Witch hazel grows in understory, often leaning like this one to create a bower of branches.*

## SUPPORT THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL AND GET A FREE MEMBERSHIP

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



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

You can also join online at: [northcountrytrail.org](http://northcountrytrail.org)

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

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



# Sidote Hike 2020

Peg Fuller



On July 25th, Saturday, the Bullthistle Hiking Club led the Ed Sidote Memorial Hike. Before the hike we talked about why Ed was important to the Finger Lakes Trail and why we have this hike in his honor. We understand that without these founding members, we would not have the trails we enjoy so much. The two groups then split up and went on their way. The short hike was led by Peg Fuller. The long hike was led by Julie Thompson. Both hikes started at the trailhead on Clarence Church Rd (FLT map M 23).

There was a total of 11 hikers. Everyone maintained social distance and/or wore a face mask. The number of hikers was substantially down due to COVID-19.

The short hike was 4.4 miles and went up Clarence Church Rd, then down Mud Lane, a right turn onto Johnson Street and then onto the FLT. We took the blue trail to the Perkins Lean-to and had lunch. We returned to our cars by walking back along the blue trail to the main FLT trail to Clarence Church Rd.

The long hike was 8.5 miles and went up Clarence Church to Game Preserve Rd., onto Johnson St. to Bear Wallow Rd., then on the blue spur trail to the main FLT by Lower Pond. The hike continued on the main FLT past Jackson Pond up to the



*Dinosaur on trail register.*



*Inch worm fascinated Peg and Warren.*

blue trail to the Perkins Lean-to and then back to the main FLT trail to the cars. The group enjoyed their lunch at Jackson Pond where there was a nice breeze coming off the water.

Some highlights from the hikes: we observed the area that is being transformed into new wildlife habitat by the DEC. As we headed down Game Preserve Road, we saw a Chrome Daisy (aka lost hubcaps). They can be found near deep potholes along the roadside. Other flowers we observed were Red Bee Balm and white Dew Drops. A dinosaur was found in the Jackson Pond camping area and relocated to the registration box. We also saw some green and red partridge berries along the way.

It was a nice group of people to wander with through the woods on a warm and humid day! Temperatures ranged around 80 degrees for the day. The hike through the woods was very comfortable in the shade.

Peg and Warren went back to Perkins Lean-to after the short hike to wait for the long hikers. While there, it became very clear how simple things can be entertaining. Peg and Warren watched a very active inchworm, with photos as proof of the fascination with it. 🍁



*Group at lower pond dam.*



Steve Ellsworth

Peg Fuller



# We Reached Our Goal!

*Christy Post, Marketing and Communications*



The Capital Equipment Fund was established in March of this year to address the FLTC's ongoing need to purchase large equipment for trail projects. We reached out to members and supporters asking you to contribute funds to purchase an ATV and a trailer to haul it, with a goal of raising \$11,000. We are pleased to tell you we have met and exceeded that goal!

We have received \$11,738 in donations to the Capital Equipment Fund since March. To the right is a list of donors. We want to extend our sincerest thanks to these individuals and families, most of whom gave to this campaign on top of regular annual contributions to the FLTC.

We are so grateful. Gifts to the Capital Equipment Fund, as well as the FLTC's other Funds, are accepted year-round. Thank you for your generous support! 🍁



Jacqui Wensich

*Carrying lumber loads to a project on Lynda Rummel's "mule." We can't count on borrowed equipment every time.*

## Thank You

Landmax Data Systems, Inc.  
5919 E. Henrietta Rd. Rush, NY14543  
585/533-9210  
www.landmaxdata.com



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

## DONORS

Anonymous  
David Arkin  
Tom Babcock  
Sandy & Bill Ballard  
Thomas R. & Mary Lou Belasky  
Bobolink Hill Fund  
Debra & Joe Borer  
Jon & Kathy Bowen  
Lori Chiarilli  
Joyce and Mike Ermer  
Yvonne Hallstead  
Carole & Mark Hansen  
John Hollopeter  
Roger & Ruth Hopkins  
Chris Hotchkiss  
Kirk House  
John Kelly  
Lisa Kenney  
Brian Klotz  
Robert Kremens  
David Longhini  
C. Thomas & Emily M. McCall  
Kim & Terry Meacham  
Andrew Moon  
Larry Moses  
Ronald W. & Barbara Navik  
David Newlun  
David & Laurel Newman  
Glenn & Patti Owens  
Nancy Papish  
Alan Percy  
Dan Phillips  
Robert Reeves  
Ronald & Linda Smarsh  
Scott Wilkerson  
Quinn & Jewell Wright

*We do our best to ensure the accuracy of all donor lists, but occasionally errors or omissions do occur. Please let us know of any errors on this list by emailing Christy Post, Director of Marketing and Communications, at [cpost@fingerlakestrail.org](mailto:cpost@fingerlakestrail.org). This is a complete list of donors as of August 12, 2020. Gifts received after that date will not appear in this list.*





For some, the FLT is about solitude and time spent alone. For others, it is a way to connect with like-minded people with a similar love of the outdoors. Sometimes, the FLT becomes embedded into the fabric of a couple or a family, as is the case with the Ellsworths.

The Ellsworths—Steve and Karen and their sons Richard and Noah—live close to the Finger Lakes Trail in Chenango County. About 10 years ago, when their kids were young, Steve and Karen joined the Bullthistle Hiking Group and the whole family hiked together. Over the years as their kids got older and more involved with sports and other activities, they hiked together less, but stayed involved with Bullthistles. Two years ago the Ellsworths became members of the FLTC, and Steve got involved with trail maintenance, even becoming a certified sawyer.

When COVID-19 hit this year, the Ellsworth family found themselves spending a lot more time on the FLT, and as a result they found a stronger bond with the trail community, shared interest and purpose as a family, and even untapped personal strength.

### Trail Community

When COVID-19 hit, the usual hike leader for Bullthistles stopped leading hikes and the Ellsworths stepped in. They decided that as a family, they would continue as Bullthistles even if it was just them. Steve began picking out hikes for every weekend, and eventually, other Bullthistles joined for “socially distant” hikes with masks and all the recommended safety protocols. Steve continues to lead these hikes most weekends for the Bullthistles, and last week the family did the Sidote Hike for the first time, an annual hike named for FLT legend Ed Sidote. Ed created a whole hiking culture in Chenango County, founded the Bullthistle Club, promoted hiking, finishing the whole trail, and regarded trail maintenance as a holy mission!

### A Family Project

In June, the Ellsworths were out for a hike and found some ATV tracks. Knowing the FLT is a footpath, they followed the tracks and decided to check in at the lean-to on Map M24. They found a mess – the remnants of a party that clearly did not include conscientious hikers. Sadly, this has become a more common occurrence all across the Finger Lakes Trail since the pandemic struck. Trail has seen increased use by nontraditional trail users, and it has suffered. There was a pop-up canopy partially taken down, a large plastic wash tub that probably held beverages and ice, broken glass, a lantern, aluminum cans, liquor bottles, plastic beer cups.

Steve and the Ellsworth's younger son Noah returned to clean up the mess. They communicated with the FLT's Regional Trail Coordinator, who in turn communicated with the DEC about the mess. This is a lean-to that is problematic given its proximity to the road, and all parties are working to stay on top of this, and



Steve Ellsworth

*On Map M24, the Ludlow Lean-to was the victim of serious trash-ing by partiers.*

to respond quickly when messes of this nature are found. The Ellsworths did what so many in our great FLT community would also have done: they took personal responsibility to keep the trail they love pristine.

### Growing Personal Strength on the FLT

Meanwhile, Karen had learned about the FLT50, our new annual program that challenges individuals to hike 50 miles or more each year on the Finger Lakes Trail. Participants are asked to get out and hike or run, to record their miles, and to submit them when they hit 50 to earn a sticker and a patch.

At the start of the pandemic, Karen had started running, following a running plan her son Richard created for her. Both of Karen's sons had inspired her to run. Richard ran cross-country in school and is now a long-distance trail runner. Her younger son Noah is a Track & Field athlete. It was through his participation in Track & Field that Karen became involved in Masters Track & Field, having learned that all ages could compete. Karen says she was mainly a “throws and jumps” person, and while she always did some running, she wasn't fast and never considered herself “a runner” until she started logging what she calls “COVID miles.”

Karen's son created a running plan for her, and since all miles counted in May for the FLT50, she made 50 miles her goal for the first month. She earned her patch in the first months, completing a total of 68 miles between running and hiking with the Bullthistles. She decided to try for 50 miles in June as well; now she has set her goal on earning the FLT50 hat by completing 50 miles per month for three months.

She talked to her son Richard, who had completed his 50 miles in 4 or 5 runs on the FLT in the first month of the challenge. She knew he'd been running the FLT for a few years and had kept

good track or his routes and miles. She turned to her son for advice, and Karen became a trail runner.

June was tough as Karen got used to trail running. She started to map which sections of the trail she'd been on thinking that some day she'd complete an End-to-End. Sometimes she'd run the road sections of the trail to double dip road/trail but be able to keep up the speed of the road. She started using Passport Hikes as a way to explore the trail, and both she and her son Noah are quickly collecting rubbings from various Passport stations to earn their Passport patches as well.

Karen is now running more than she ever thought she would or could—and she loves it. When she hikes, she says, her legs want to run. She loves that she can explore so much more of the trail running than she could hiking. But she'll always enjoy the slower pace of a hike ... there is a lot to see on the trail, she says ... and the good company of her family and other hiking friends.

*We loved hearing the Ellsworths story. We love how they connected with each other, with other members of the trail community, and with the trail itself, in this time of crisis. We extend congratulations to the whole family for completing their FLT50, with special congratulations to Karen for taking this as an opportunity to challenge herself and try something new. We are grateful to this family for their membership with the FLTC, and for their service as trail stewards.* 🍁



Steve Ellsworth

*Some of the trash around the fire pit at the Ludlow Lean-to.*

## **FLT NAMED HIKE EVENT**

***Sunday, September 20, 2020***

***2020 Erv Markert Hike***

***FLT Map - Map O1***

Onondaga and Cortland Counties, Morgan Hill State Forest, Map O1

### **Hike Leaders:**

From ADK Onondaga Chapter:

Mike Ogden: [mogden317@gmail.com](mailto:mogden317@gmail.com), 315-418-0083 (longer and faster hike)

Sigi Schwinge: [sigischwinge@aol.com](mailto:sigischwinge@aol.com), 315-437-6906 (shorter and somewhat slower hike)

### **Hike Description:**

Both hikes are loops which start and finish at Shackham Pond. The hikes are subject to change. Be sure to watch the FLT website for updated details, or contact one of the hike leaders. Both hikes pass an FLT Passport (PP) rubbing station so bring your PP booklet. If you come early, you can walk east a short way to idyllic Shackham Pond and look at a little family graveyard from long ago. You can also do that after the hike; it's worth taking the short FLT path. We also recommend going to Labrador Pond after the hike and walk the short boardwalk to the pond. Forest bathing at its best.

**Mike's 7.5 mile hike** will start uphill, pass serene Spruce Pond and go further up (PP E10 post) to Jones Hill where you'll have a fantastic view over Labrador Valley at the hang glider jump-off point. You'll then descend to the top of Tinker Falls where you look down on the falls and creek and even have a chance to walk behind the waterfall. Then you'll cross Tinker Creek, and go up and up on switchbacks and walk gently down to the lower crossing of Shackham Rd., and a 1.4 mile road walk will take you back to your car at Shackham Pond.

**Sigi's 6 mile hike** will also start at Shackham Pond and go the same way up to Spruce Pond, but will then take the orange blazed 3.5 mile Fellows Hill Loop (PP E09 post) The first part goes along creeks with little waterfalls, crosses Herlihy Rd. and then ascends to the top of the hill, where we take a break and catch our breath before going gently down the hill and return to Shackham Pond by a different route.

### **Meeting time:**

8:45 AM, hike starts at 9 AM.

### **Location:**

Both hikes start at Shackham Pond, Shackham Rd., south of Fabius.

### **Directions to Meeting Place:**

**From the south** (Cortland, Ithaca): Take Rt. 13 from Cortland, go north on Rt. 91, take a right (east) on Shackham Rd. and go to the trailhead pond area where there are big boulders on the right side.

**From the west and north:** take Tully Exit 14 off Interstate 81 and go east on Rt. 80, take a right/south on Bailey Rd. and shortly after bear right on Shackham Rd.; go 3 miles to the big boulder trailhead parking area.





## Answers to the Summer 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](mailto:jwensich@rochester.rr.com)

### Previous Location:



Terry Dempksi

Bear Spring M28/29 Mountain Wildlife Management Area

### Correctly ID:

Lisa Barrett "When I posted my hike pictures on the FB page from this hike, I made the comment that I felt as if someone was staring at me, turned around and saw these eyes. I wonder how many of us have taken that picture?"



Janet Brooks

## New FLT Members

We're so glad you joined! We do our best to ensure the accuracy of all member lists, but occasionally errors and omissions do occur. Please let us know of any errors on this list by emailing Christy Post, Director of Marketing & Communications, at [cpost@fingerlakestrail.org](mailto:cpost@fingerlakestrail.org). This is a list of new members from May 1 - July 31, 2020.

Bryant Adams	Freeville	Thomas Gillies	Syracuse	Diana McCloskey	Naples	Jerome Stiller	Rochester
Karen Alpha	Corning	Lisa Goho	Almond	Joanna Minney	N. Tonawanda	Joanna Swanson	Two Harbors, Minn
Lesta Ammons	Tonawanda	Jeff Goldman	Philadelphia, Penn	Jennifer Montgomery	Endicott	Shannon Swingle	Honeoye
Sharon Anderson	Lansing	Paul Grim	Fairport	Lisa Morris	Cortland	James Taylor	Naples
David Arkin	Greene	Ben Grodner	Ithaca	Kim Norton	Brooktondale	William Thomas	Corning
Mike Armstrong	Hornell	Yvonne Hallstead	Canandaigua	Rachel Odhner	Ithaca	Don Tindall	Ithaca
Margaret Baackes	Rochester	Kathy Harasta	Endicott	Richard Ortlepp	Orchard Park	Theresa Tonozzi	Horseheads
Kevin Benedict	Alpine	Jon Harshbarger	Jamesville	Nicole Pane	East Amherst	Adrianne Traub	Cortland
Sara Bloxson	Ithaca	Clement Hathaway	Germantown	Sharon Peet	Pittsford	Melanie Trummer	Little Valley
Robert Brasher	Ithaca	Aaron Havill	Branchport	Garrett Piech	Corning	Gary Tucker	Norwich
Eva Briggs	Marcellus	David Heinsler	Rochester	Jamey Pierson	Elmira	Kathryn Tunkel	LaFayette
Nicole Briggs	Rochester	Lawrence Hellwitz	Ithaca	Jeanne Pigage	Rochester	Luanne Valsee	Binghamton
David Broach	Savannah	Chris Helmes	Barneveld	Chris Ransdell	Victor	Amy Vallone	Webster
Tom Bryden	S. New Berlin	Laura Howard	Rochester	David Rassler	South Wales	Saskya van Nouhuys	Ithaca
Peter Burnett	Endicott	James Hughes	East Aurora	Marc Rixford	Hornell	Gregory Vinal	Amherst
Kim Cameron	Tully	Alissa Hull	Dryden	Randall Roberts	Strongsville, Ohio	Maxwell Wallace	Rochester
Amy Caslin	Lindley	Isaac Hutton	Fairport	Lisa Robertson	Fayetteville	Edward Walsh	West Haverstraw
Kimberly Cawley	Locke	Amber Inglis	Manlius	Ross Family	Scarsdale	Sarah Waters	Smyrna
Thomas Charnock	Clarence	David Jaynes	Delevan	Margaret Rourke	Tolland, Conn	George Weiss	Elmira
Jacob Clyde	Bloomfield	Jim Jurista	Manlius	Eric Sandsted	Freeville	James Whittemore	Rochester
Willson Cummer	Syracuse	Ingrid Keenan	Geneva	Christopher Schaeffer	Amherst	Linda Wieselquist	Brooktondale
Elaine Dalrymple	Montour Falls	Sherry Kessler	Rochester	Jennifer Schlick	Jamestown	Susan Wilkins	Honeoye
Hannah Davis	Rochester	Peter Knauerhase	Cortland	Steven Schultz	Williamsville		
Kevin Dean	Freeville	Grigory Kolesov	Corning	Shannon Scutari	Skaneateles		
William & Terri Dempksi	Apalachin	Amy Lachuk	Buffalo	Terri Seager	Smyrna		
Robert Dibble	Barker	Laura Lamash	Binghamton	Sarah Shank	Newfield		
Karen Doherty	Trumansburg	Cody Leach	Rochester	Mark Sharrer	Syracuse		
David Eddy	Norwich	Michael Lee	Dryden	Ellen Shaw-Maceo	Hammondsport		
Kathleen Elliott-Birdsall	Cortland	Tim Logue	Ithaca	Chad Simpson	Albany		
Erin Epperly	Moravia	Michael Madden	Ontario	Daniel Smith	Buffalo		
Denise Eshenaur	Rochester	Paul Manzari	Auburn	Dennis Solo	Hornell		
Elizabeth Fisher-York	Ithaca	Cynthia Massicci	Ithaca	Jesse Sperrick	Palmyra		
Robert Gilbert	Buffalo	Sharon Mattsson	Rochester	Sheila Squier	Ithaca		

# FLTC Protects Trail, A Key Parcel, Road Access, Parking and Lean-to



Mary Coffin

The Finger Lakes Trail was able to use the Sidote Stewardship Fund to purchase this key parcel in Cortland County (FLT Map M20) and secure permanent trail access (~1 mile) between Hoxie Gorge State Forest and Stone Road, also protecting the Hoxie Gorge Lean-to. We gained a parking lot in a former shale quarry just off Stone Road in addition. This was no easy task and it took several years of patient negotiating and revising. It is particularly significant as it is part of 425 miles of the eight-state North Country National Scenic Trail that runs concurrent with the FLT.

This section of the FLT was built by, and until this year, has been maintained by the Onondaga Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK-ON). It was of great concern to the ADK-ON Landowner Liaison Committee when after many years, late in 2015, the landowner verbally permitting the trail adjacent to Hoxie Gorge State Forest decided to sell his farm. He preferred not to sign an easement or right of way agreement, so the trail was unprotected. If the new landowner did not accept the trail, the new lean-to being built in Hoxie Gorge State Forest would end up on a dead end trail, the hiker would have a long road walk and the hunting closure access would be lost extending the road walk. The trail was vulnerable.

By 2016 the new landowner's information was finally posted by Cortland County Real properties. We contacted the new landowner, Eric Peck, on the farm and obtained reluctant verbal permission, backed up in writing, to continue the trail on his newly purchased farm. He was a bit reluctant wondering if hikers might not understand normal agricultural processes. But as ADK-ON Landowner Liaisons, Bill Coffin and I continued to visit him, as we do most local landowners, to maintain relationships, we established a positive relationship with Eric Peck.

In February 2017, I made an appointment to discuss a Trail Access Easement(TAE)/ Right of Way for the trail on Peck's land. I drove 1-1/2 hours down in a blizzard and we had our first of many discussions on how we might protect the trail. He was leery of an easement though he understood it was not a restrictive Conservation Easement.

By 2018 Dave Newman, FLTC VP for Trail Preservation, identified the section as a key parcel and obtained approval from the Board to pursue purchasing a portion of the property. So, we began negotiating on size and shape, acreage, required road frontage and various configurations as well as price/acre. DEC Forester Dan Little was instrumental in providing maps as the parcel is adjacent to Hoxie Gorge State Forest.

Landowner Eric Peck was very patient working with us as we presented various configurations that preserved certain fields important to him, acreage that not only protected the trail, was within FLTC's budget and worthwhile to him. We field checked each proposal, dancing around abandoned farm dumps and double checking the corners and adjacent boundaries. We greatly appreciated Mr. Peck's give and take as we wanted to be fair to him as well as

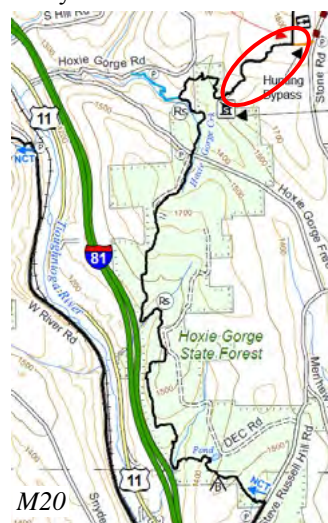
protect the trail and its access at both ends. The FLT paid \$2895 for a professional appraisal to help offer Eric Peck a fair price.

When all parties struck a deal fair to all, we made application for a subdivision with the Town of Freetown. In December 2018, Deb Nero and I travelled, again in a blizzard, to the Freetown Planning Board Monthly Meeting and explained our proposal and obtained provisional approval pending the survey. Jim Weiss, Freetown Planning Board Chair, helped us work through several revisions and we were on our way.

Dave Newman and an FLTC attorney worked out our purchase proposal, and, after ironing out differences, the final purchase offer was signed in 2019. The survey was completed in 2020 just after the snow melted. The new volunteer Regional Trail Coordinator, Peter Dady, assisted the surveyor and measurements we made in the field.

I only mention the dates to show how this process proceeds. Probably the longest wait was for Mr. Peck's bank holding the mortgage to approve the purchase, survey etc. The flexibility, persistence and patience of all parties paid off. Finally, in July 2020 we closed on the property, 34 acres, parking lot on Stone Road, a mile of protected trail. A snowmobile trail maintained by the Marathon Snowdusters snowmobile club does cross the trail perpendicularly in two locations. FLTC will continue to support these crossings but post the trail against bikes and motorized vehicles to support its NCNST certification. Peter Dady will be posting signs at all corners, junctions, snowmobile crossing and key boundaries with adjacent landowners.

It is most rewarding after a four year process to see this trail and lean-to protection project come to fruition, truly a team effort. Working with our generous landowners is most rewarding, especially when it results in protecting a hiking trail that is open free to the public, a valuable community resource.



Peter Dady

*Our WELCOME sign at road's edge on our new property.*



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

**Rebecca Lewis, taken in Morgan Hill State Forest**

