

Finger Lakes Trail NEWS

Summer 2021



Inside...

- * * This Year's First End-to-Enders
- * State Forest Management

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 for the enjoyment and health of residents and visitors. Forever!



STAFF

Deb Nero

Interim Executive Director
fltexecdir@fingerlakestrail.org

Christy Post

Marketing and Communications
cpost@fingerlakestrail.org

Debbie Hunt

585/658-9320
officemanager@fingerlakestrail.org

Gary Buchanan

585/658-9320
garyb@fingerlakestrail.org

Michaela Aney

Trail Development
michaela.aney@fingerlakestrail.org

Patty Owens

Data Clerk

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

Finger Lakes Trail Office

Phone: 585/658-9320

DIRECTORS

Mike Schlicht

Crews and Construction
pageazi@yahoo.com

Willa Powell

Treasurer
flt.treasurer@fingerlakestrail.org

Jo Taylor

Mapping
jhtaylor@frontiernet.net

BOARD OF MANAGERS

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

Terms Expiring 2023

Donna Flood
dmflood@roadrunner.com

Pete Hagmire

phagmire@gmail.com

Laurie Ondrejka

laurieondrejka@gmail.com

Willa Powell

flt.treasurer@fingerlakestrail.org

Sharon Ray

sharon.ray@sni.org

Summer 2021



SPECIAL FEATURES:

Bylaw Changes.....	4
What's the Triad? What's the June Bug.....	12
Board Nominations.....	21
State Forest Management: Producing Timber for Multiple Benefits	26



HIKING:

Hiking Through Seasons and Watersheds on the FLT... 6	
Dedicated to the Dogs Who Hike With Us	19
Hikers Say "Thank You" to Generous Landowners	24



TRAIL TOPICS:

Trail Maintenance	14
Thank You, Bill and Marty	16
Mini Cats and Alley Cats 2021	20



TRAIL TOPICS:

A Naturalist's View.....	10
End-to-End Update	13
FLT Interactive Maps.....	18
Trail Preservation Report	19
Miles with Mark.....	22



DEPARTMENTS:

President's Message	3
Executive Director Report	5
Name That Map!	9



MEMBERSHIP:

Trolling For New Members	17
--------------------------------	----

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, Summer Issue, Volume 60, Issue Number 2, is the official publication of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc., a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, 6111 Visitor Center Road, Mt. Morris, NY 14510. The Finger Lakes Trail News is published four times a year for promotional and entertainment purposes, as well as a benefit for its members. Comments and original contributions are welcome and may be submitted to the editor. Copyright © 2021 by Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc.

About the Cover:

Jim Morin caught this good view while hiking across the state. This is take on Map M21 from Stoney Brook Road. See story on page 6.

Photo by Jim Morin

President's Message

Pat Monahan



Summer is here. New York State and the United States are making progress towards full vaccination. As always, I find myself heading outdoors for rest, relaxation and rejuvenation. It is hard to explain to others who do not hike in the woods why I like to get out on the trail as often as I can, even in the rain. My favorite hike is on the Crystal Hills Trail in Steuben County, located on Meads Creek Road. There is something about a leisurely hike in the woods that perks up my energy as I return to my busy life. It is like getting a fresh start on the day.

There are several updates to the organization that I would like to highlight in my column. Check them out below.

- Quinn Wright, Executive Director, has retired after many years of service to the FLT. He has served as Director of Crews and Construction, Treasurer and Executive Director. He is a long time Foothills member and serves on the North Country Trail Association Board. He has received numerous awards from all of these organizations. It will be hard to find Quinn in the next few years. He has a goal to hike all of the NCT. Your best bet to reach him will be somewhere out on the trail. Thanks, Quinn, for your years of dedicated service to the FLTC.
- Deb Nero, formerly Executive Vice President, was appointed as the Executive Director at the May 26 Board meeting. She may be familiar to you as she has led NYS DEC First Day, County Hike series and Hiking 101 hikes as well as being the go-to person for the Wegmans Passport program, 2019 Trail Days and more. She is an active member of the Cayuga Trails Club. She will be missed as a Board member but a welcome addition to the staff.
- Lynda Rummel, Vice President of Trail Quality, retired at our May 26 Board meeting. Lynda has served as a Board member and Vice President of Trails for many years. In addition to all her responsibilities and accomplishments as VP Trail Quality, Lynda was instrumental in creating the operational structure to manage all of the trail responsibilities from the early FLTC leadership of Howard Beye, Vice President of Trails. (It took five volunteers and a staff office member to replace Howard. Lynda was one of the volunteers. That structure still exists today with the addition of a fulltime Director of Trail Development). We have a tagline that describes Lynda's work the best, *FLT: New York's premier footpath*. Lynda will continue to consult with the FLT trail team. Thanks for your years of dedicated service to the FLTC.
- Our Annual Membership meeting will be held during our Fall Conference weekend on September 18, 2021, at Greek Peak Resort. My hope is to be able to hold this as an in person meeting if the health guidelines allow us to do that. I hope that you will be able to attend.

As we continue to move forward as an organization that is nearly 60 years old, I am confident that we have the right staff, hundreds of volunteers, Board members and a strategic plan to guide us into the future. Your support is never taken for granted. All these elements keep us laser focused on the mission of the FLTC.

I started my column with my favorite hike on the FLT. I encourage you to carve out some time to go to your favorite hiking trail. And as the saying goes, **"Go take a hike!!"** 🍁



Tony Rodriguez

Hi! I'm Deb Nero, and I am excited to assume the duties of Interim Executive Director for the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. I look forward to working with Debbie Hunt, Director of Operations, Christy Post, Director of Marketing and Communications, Michaela Aney, Director of Trail Development, and the Board of Managers to help the Finger Lakes Trail Conference fulfill our mission to build, protect, enhance, and promote a continuous footpath across New York State for the enjoyment and health of residents and visitors. Forever! Please contact me at fltcexecdir@fingerlakestrail.org.



Colin Parrish

Finger Lakes Trail Conference



Proposed Bylaws change for membership approval 2021 Annual Meeting (September 18, 2021)

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference membership in good standing is asked to consider the following changes to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference Bylaws:

Current:

Article V – MEMBERSHIP Section 4. Dues:

Article V Section 4—Dues

1. Such annual dues as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board shall be paid by all members except such as may be elected by the Board to membership in a class or classes of membership expressly exempted from this requirement.
2. Dues paid by a new member between January 1 and April 1 will carry through to April 1 of the following year.
3. The annual dues are due and payable April 1 of each year.

Proposal #1

Article V, Section 4

1. Annual membership dues will be on a rolling membership renewal schedule.

Rationale

New memberships naturally occur throughout the year. Our updated database system can manage a rolling membership renewal schedule. There are no negative financial implications to the change. Communications for the transition will explain the new rolling membership plan. Members will be solicited for renewal of their dues one year after they last paid. Each member will enjoy a 12 month membership.

The Board of Managers recommends the membership approve Proposal #1 for dues to be paid using a rolling membership renewal schedule.

New FLT Members

Karen Anderson
Steven Armstrong
Robert Baker
Michael Benden
Kevin Benedict
Bradley & Courtney Benjamin
Bruce Blackman
Melissa Boglioli
David Bogosian
Lora Bouton
Margaret & David Brongo
Jim Brophy
Molly Brown
Jackie Bubnell
Marvin Butler
Sheila Byrne
Craig & Kathleen Byrum
Jennifer Caci
Pamela Cady
Sharon & David Canfield
Stacey Case
Timothy Cassano
Gary Clausing
Thomas Cleland
Kenneth Cohen
Shea Coleman
Jamie Condon
Tammy Congelli
John Cooley & Heather Cook
Michael Coyle
Lyndsie Guy & Michael Crosby
Catherine Cruz
Danielle Cummings
Sean Cunningham

Laura DeKruger
Patrick Domaratz
Amy Downs
D.C. Dragone
R Douglas Eaton
David Eaton
Sarah Fairbanks
Lisa Fleet
Agnieszka Flor
John Ford
Thomas Formanek
Stephanie Frasca
Patricia Fries
Christine Garfield
Jacqueline Gerding
Joseph Giarizzo
Bradley & Jennifer Gleason
Monica Gleason Potter
Charles Greene
Margaret Griswold
MaryAnn Haefner
Anthony Hanson
Linda Harding
Sarahjane Harrigan
Steven Hartman
David & Donna Hartney
Nancy Hayward
Mary Heiermann
Frank Heiermann
Kathryn Hikfiker
Michael Hilburger
Leah Hooper
Angela Hoover
Debbie Hunt

Betsy Hyer
Michelle Jackson
Robert Jacobs
Shaan Jena
C J Jensen
Douglas Jensen
Christina Kager
Jennifer Kalbfell
Kerry & John Kautzman
Sandy Kelley
Andrew Kempf
Paul Kendzierski
Lynne Knaze
Timothy Lagarry
Margaret Lamark
Jacqueline Lancaster
Jill Lapham
Dave Lattuca
Kathy Cronin & Scott Lauffer
Todd Lockwood
Eugene Lovelace
Zachary Markel
Kathy Marks
Cora Mason
Louise Miller
Julia Miller
Mark Mingos
Sarah Mogil
David Mooney
Jane Mt. Pleasant
Jill Nichols
Roxie Oberg
Marissa Pace
Patty Parshall

James Perkins
Ryan Perry
Stephanie Platania
Erin Potter
Joanne Pyszcsek
Andrew Quagliata
Rose Rafferty
Frank Rees
Elizabeth Renzetti
Mark Richmond
Michael Ripple
Anne Roberts
Wendy Roberts
Justin Russell
Lindsay Ruth
Pamela Sander
Adriana Schubmehl
Emma Lou Sheikh
Darrell Sigas
Deborah Smith
David Sonnenfeld
Dave & Jenn Spencer
Viktor Stcherbak
Zakery Steele
Kristine Strong
Diane Taft
Victoria Taylor
Rosemary Thompson
Annette Tiberi
Stephen Tyler
Susan Ulrich
John Vandenberg
Teresa Vincent
Donna Vozenilek

William Wade
Sarah Waters
Amy Watson
Susan Weida
Ted Wenskus
Greg Whitney
Elizabeth Windstein
Hilary Woznica
Sheila Yoensky
Josie Yunis
Nell Ziegler

Executive Director Report

Quinn Wright



The last three years have been extremely draining, both emotionally and physically, as the FLTC Board has endeavored to move the FLTC from a club model to a business model of management. The outcome of that is that the FLTC has what I perceive will be a highly effective leadership triumvirate of Debbie Hunt, Michaela Aney and Christy Post. It was my intent to reduce my time commitments and that has happened.

I said to my wife Jewell last fall that I would really like to hike the entirety of the North Country Trail and she said, "You should." This spring when I mentioned it again, she said firmly "You should while you still can!" So I started to finish N.Y. in March and discovered that my energy level would not permit me to serve the FLTC effectively if I were to hike as much as would be necessary to complete the trail by 2024, the year that I turn 80.

So I cannot remain as Executive Director. It is with mixed emotions that I leave my post as Executive Director of the FLTC. When I stumbled across the Conservation Trail almost 20 years ago, the farthest things from my thoughts were:

- Maintaining trail which I did in the Holland Ravines for a few years.
- Working on an Alley Cat – I did so many times.
- Becoming Director of Crews and Construction
- Becoming FLTC Treasurer
- Becoming the Executive Director
- Hiking main and branch trails of the FLT – officially once, but almost three times
- Hiking the NCT end to end – I am on my way and will be done with N.Y., Penna., some of Ohio and most of North Dakota this year.

Those activities have come out of a sense of adventure and an unspoken obligation to thank the FLTC for its nearly 60 years of providing a trail for anyone to use "free of charge." There are always challenges in any activity whether as a volunteer or staff. In any event those challenges have been consistently resolved, although not always as fast as one might like or as any one person might desire. But always the participation and the resolution of any problem was with the "best interest of the Finger Lakes Trail" in mind.

My fondest and happiest memory will always be the day that my wife wandered into my life on her first ever hike. While on our Foothill hikes or FLT hikes she often runs up the hills and waits for us to catch up; yet she still says to me "you are the only man I cannot keep up with" after we near the end of a 10+ mile hike and she is pulling up the rear. Tortoise and Hare, I suppose.

There are certain people who will always be dear to my heart; some of those are people with whom I have crossed swords in pursuit of "what is best for the FLTC." There are too many trail volunteers, crew members, crew leaders and project leaders to mention any one specific person, so I just tip my hat to the amazing Trail Management Team and the volunteers who make it work; it is truly the heart and soul of the organization. But I must mention

Dave Potzler, a dedicated trail volunteer leader, not because of his trail work, but because he has truly become a great friend with whom my wife and I frequently enjoy each others' company over a meal.

There are many, many Board and staff members, past and present, who have contributed greatly to the continuing success of the FLTC, and I will mention those who will remain fondly in my memory:

- Roger Hopkins – as with Dave, Roger is exceptionally professional, and works tirelessly to support the FLTC. We can all thank him for the incredible interactive maps and our first website iteration. And to my good fortune I am privileged to call him "friend."
- Debbie Hunt – she is a remarkable employee who is business-minded and dedicated to the FLTC. As an example, last year when COVID hit, and we could not use the office she moved our entire operation to her dining room. Business continued without interruption. I truly view Debbie as the glue that holds the FLTC together.
- Pat Monahan – despite a series of personal challenges Pat has continued to guide the FLTC as President for, I think, more than eleven years. It has been unfair of the organization to have saddled him with the responsibility for so long, yet he smiles through everything. He has become a dear friend and I will miss our exchanges.
- Dave Newman – he is exceptionally professional, works his tail off in efforts to secure the trail into the future. And to my good fortune I am privileged to call him "friend."
- Lynda Rummel – she embodies the sentiment of doing "what is best for the FLTC." Her knowledge and willingness to share that knowledge always amaze me. She challenged me frequently and I appreciate her for that. Our parries were always troubling to me, but I have the utmost respect for her work and her dedication to the FLTC.
- Irene Szabo – irascible Irene is how I think of her, but she has contributed to the growth of the FLTC unlike any other person with whom I have interacted. We crossed swords often, but to this day can still needle each other. She is the reason that the FLTC has an office in an idyllic location at no cost to the FLTC. She was the person who found the opportunity for the location from the Army Corps of Engineers. Her dedication to the FLTC is unparalleled.



Roger Hopkins

Quinn and Jewell

Farewell 🍁

Contact: Quinn Wright

fltcexecdir@fingerlakestrail.org

716-826-1939

Hiking Through Seasons and Watersheds on the FLT



Story and Photos by Jim Morin #491

Even though I didn't know it then, my quest to hike the FLT started on April 13th 2019 when I was 76. That first hike was a whopping 0.9 miles on the FLT! However, I had just finished up 4 weeks of 5 days-a-week radiation after having my prostate removed due to cancer and was slowly getting some energy back. In addition, I had had 7 surgeries in the previous 18 months, both knees replaced, an aortic valve replacement, a pacemaker replacement, my gall bladder removed, an inguinal hernia repair and the prostatectomy. So I had good excuses, but it was time to get my boots back on the trail. In a little over two years my wife Myra Shulman (#490) and I section-hiked, End to End, the FLT. We completed it in Allegany State Park on April 29th, 2021.

These days I am a slow hiker, always at the back of any group hike. So our FLT hikes were slow and steady, usually about 5 to 7 miles long. Both of us are endlessly curious about our surroundings so we dawdle a lot and spend time studying the geography, geology, photographing and especially observing the biota, and compiling lists (which morphed into massive spread sheets), and just being part of nature. We frequently use *iNaturalist*, a terrific phone app that can usually come up with identifications of nearly any organism in the area – or at least aim you in the right direction. We were both field marine biologists and educators back in our professional lives at Cornell, but now we are becoming terrestrial



Jim Morin #491 and Myra Shulman #490

naturalists learning our local flora, fauna and fungi, and what better way to do that than with the diversity along the FLT?

Myra and friend Beth Lalonde started it all by becoming Trail Adopters of the Lick Brook area (Map M17) in 2018, taking over from the late Tom Reimers. Myra had hiked the Ithaca area a lot, but Beth less so. After about a year Beth indicated that she wanted to explore more of the FLT beyond the vicinity of their trail section, so in March 2019 they began expanding

outward on day hikes with the fuzzy goal of maybe doing the whole FLT. They started using the usual two car shuttle system for each hike. This is when I came into the picture. Instead of having them drive two cars, Beth would drive them both to the start and I, after a delay, would drive to meet them at their end point, and then deliver Beth to her car. However, as I got stronger I began hiking out the trail from the end point and would meet them along the trail (and always greeted with “Dr. Livingston, I presume” by Beth) and then we would walk back together.

First, Myra and Beth hiked west as far as Watkins Glen (Map M15), and then they headed east on the Trail. They had gotten as far east as Level Green (Map M18) when I decided that I, too, wanted to hike the FLT and the three of us began hiking east together. In addition, Myra and I began back-filling all those bits

Hilltop view on Map M21, looking NW from Stoney Brook Rd.





Pink ladyslipper with bumble bee

Bear corn (also called squaw corn)

Porcupine tooth marks on a poor maple victim

and pieces that I had done only in smidgens. But progress stalled when Myra and I left for the summer, June to early October 2019, to go on our annual trip to our cabin on the wild outer coast of Vancouver Island in Canada. After that interlude we picked up the quest in October and by December the three of us had pretty much completed much of the FLT from Watkins Glen to the Tioughnioga River (Map M19). We entered our winter hiatus where we retrenched and did only local hikes around Ithaca.

Then, of course, Covid hit in March 2020, which changed everything. Beth was no longer able to hike with us, due to risks of carpooling plus she was having her own medical issues, but more importantly, the Canadian border was closed to us. So instead of going to Canada for the summer as we had planned, we remained restricted to upstate New York. But what better way to wait out the pandemic than by systematically hiking the wonderful FLT in the open air with few, if any, people. The two of us made rapid progress working both east and west from Ithaca, driving for each hike with two cars. As those drives became longer and longer, and with some trepidation because of Covid, we were helped out by Car Spotters near Hammondsport (once) and the Otselic River to Bainbridge (three times). While we found that this Trail Angel system worked great, it was quite worrisome because of Covid, even while riding with the windows wide open to the crisp autumn air. Because of our fears, we next switched tactics yet again and began to use Airbnb's or motels for a few nights at a time instead of constantly driving from home. To minimize our interactions, we brought our own food and utensils from home, always kept social distances and wore masks.

We did this a total of 6 times to the east and 6 times to the west, each for 2 to 6 nights, and it worked out surprisingly well. Some of the Airbnb's were funky and/or not ideal; the "regular" motels were the scariest because of indoor hallways, common entrances, and other patrons who were sometimes recalcitrant about wearing

masks. At the end, however, with both of us vaccinated, we became a little less guarded. With three final trips of 4-8 days, we ended our quest to be End to Enders.

Daily drives from our Airbnb to the trails and then our daily hikes provide interesting perspectives. Either way, the forests, farms and waterways of upstate New York are wonderful! Section hiking the Finger Lakes Trail over two years in western New York is like walking through seasons and history, especially in the spring. With passing days, the blush on the hills modulates from red to chartreuse as the flowers of the red maples rain an arc of rust on the ground below while the sugar maples follow the reds and morph the forests in their own green-yellow glow. This transition is followed by the brilliant white blotches from shadbush and cherries.

And then there is the miracle of green everywhere; it spreads upward from the ground cover, to the shrubs and finally the canopy. The brittle brown leaves of fall, flattened by the snow, are bunched up, pierced or thrust aside by the green shoots of spring led by trout lilies and spring beauties. Small leaf-lined pools become festooned with blobs of white or dark green with wiggling salamander progeny, reminders of wanton sexual trysts in frigid waters by subterranean spotted salamanders. And then they are gone. They are followed later by toads and newts coupled in flagrant sex – and leave behind long strings of jelly-blobs each with a developing black embryo, a harbinger of the future generation. Each day brings new flowers and the forest floor emerges from dull brown to a mottled green. White, brown, green, then a burst of colors – yellow, white, pink, purple... ah, spring!

Then, as the sun approaches its zenith, it ushers in the sultry days of summer. As the surge of spring flowers begins to fade, it gives way to a steady progression of summer flowers, including oddballs and rarer ones like bear corn and lady slippers.

The “supporting staff” of mosses, liverworts, ferns, club mosses (lycopsids), and lichens are perhaps less showy but also endlessly fascinating and spectacular if you take time to “look small” (hand lenses help a lot). They fill in the gaps of the understory and some also succeed as epiphytes among the towering trees. Signs of animals are everywhere on the trail: frog vocalizations in spring, porcupine gnaw marks on trees, flooding from a new beaver dam, vole tunnels in the meadows, scat of all kinds (deer, fox, coyote, raccoon, bear, bird “splats”). While the perpetrators of these signs tend to keep hidden, a few like Canada geese, woodchucks, chipmunks, red efts, red squirrels and deer do show themselves periodically. A real thrill was seeing a beautiful gray-black Fisher (I think of them as medium-sized wolverines) loping unhurriedly through the forest above Little Pond (Map M31) last fall. Another was to see a Bobcat leap across the road as we drove to set up our cars near Bainbridge (Map M25).

I like fall the best. Brilliant displays of vibrant color, days getting shorter but cooler, nights converging on frost, the trees pulling in their resources and sending their profits underground. In preparation for winter they abandon their solar panels after removing all they can of the photosynthetic machinery, then let their yellow, orange, red or brown husks tumble, discarded, to the forest floor for recycling next season. Late summer and fall are wonderful for mushrooming (and help produce great meals garnished with oyster mushrooms, chicken of the woods and more). The purple and gold of the asters and goldenrods in September and October are the sure sign that winter is approaching.

Another remarkable feature of the FLT is the diversity of sprawling river drainages through which the trail meanders. These watersheds lead to 1) the Atlantic Ocean via the Hudson, the Delaware (including the West and East Branch, Beaver Kill, and Neversink) and the sprawling Susquehanna (including the Chenango, Otselic, Tioughnioga, Owego, Chemung, Cohocton, Canisteo); 2) the Saint Lawrence Seaway via both Lake Erie (Cattaraugus Creek) and Lake Ontario (the Genesee and several creeks draining into Lakes Cayuga, Seneca and Keuka); and 3) the Gulf of Mexico via the Allegheny (to the Ohio and the Mississippi). Wow!

Driving to our trailheads each day on the rural roads of western NY provided a different assessment of the history of the land, ever changing yet always the same. The trees that fell like thunder as the first Europeans advanced gave way to stubborn, low productivity fields. The land was shorn; the lofty woods were changed to miles of stubble. Farms emerged and receded. Time marched on... the forests reconquering. Towns briefly flourished then dwindled as the unforgiving land failed to produce the way it did further west. Every year the FLT is more in forest.

On our hikes we never got really lost (except the brief occasional miscues in newly logged areas) largely because of four guides: 1) the simple, but effective, white blazes that lead the way; 2) the FLT paper maps; 3) the excellent phone app *Gaia GPS* that shows you where you are even if you are out of internet range; and 4) perhaps best of all, the FLT online map produced by our friend Roger Hopkins that shows distances via tick marks (as well as parking, closures, water sources, camp sites, lean-tos etc.) AND places your exact location on the FLT – or off it if you are straying! Remember: always carry a paper map, charge your phone before you leave for a hike, and carry a backup battery pack!



▲ *Chicken of the woods*

▼ *White oak and aspens*



Jim and Myra at the Pennsylvania border

As we hiked across the state, we were consistently in awe of the vision and hard work that so many people have expended, and continue to do so, to plan, route, build, map and maintain this incredible trail. Thank you to the FLTC community. 🍁



Answers to the Spring 2021 “Name That Map!” Quiz

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

Previous Location:



Patti Mangarelli

Map M16/17

Answer from Sara Stebbins:

The Spring 2021 map quiz looks like where the FLT passes along Enfield Creek under State Route 13, on the overlap at the eastern edge of M16 and the western edge of M17. This is immediately east of the bottom end of Robert Treman State Park.

I hiked through there with my son last summer, and barefoot on the return trip. We had made a loop, hiking up the FLT and back down the Gorge Trail through Robert Treman. At the bottom of the gorge, I surprised the kid by pulling swimsuits out of my pack. After we swam, we couldn't find anywhere socially distanced enough to safely put our boots back on, so we started down the trail barefoot, intending to stop as soon as the opportunity arose. However, Frankie (then age 9), thought hiking barefoot was a blast and insisted we hike the rest of the way back to the car that way. We were parked at the underpass so it was close to a mile barefoot.

New Picture:



Barb Nussbaum

Lynn Anderson
Lisa Barrett
Jon Bowen
Brandon Brady
Steve Desmond
Tony and Marilyn DeStefano
Kevin Hosel
Terry McDonnell
Christine Reynolds
David Rossiter
James Morin & Myra Schulman
Sara and Frankie Stebbins

Irene Szabo
Ian Woods

SUPPORT THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL AND GET A FREE MEMBERSHIP

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



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

You can also join online at: northcountrytrail.org

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

A Naturalist's View

D. Randy Weidner



There are many delights to experience while hiking The Finger Lakes Trail in summer. Cool mornings, warm days, shaded trails with lush vegetation punctuated by ponds, vistas, and road crossings. After the spring ephemeral flowers fade, the forest is left with shade tolerant blooms. But in those open areas, full of the long light of summer, the hiker is treated to a number of brightly colored blossoms. One of the most common is Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*).

Dame's Rocket is one of the taller showy flowers you will encounter. It blooms mid-spring through August. Look for it in roadside ditches, one of its favorite habitats, taking advantage of the moisture there. The entire plant stands over three feet tall, and the terminal raceme of blossoms stretches about twelve inches along the top of the plant. Individual flowers are four-petaled, just under an inch across, and variously colored from white to pink to purple to blue. More on that later.

Dame's Rocket is usually a biennial. The first year, the plant is just a mound of foliage. The second year that mound produces the floral stalk. Leaves are long and pointed with toothed margins, and grow on alternate sides of the stalk. After fertilization, the flowers develop one to two-inch long, thin, seed pods containing several seeds, well separated like peas in a pod.

Dame's Rocket is widespread across the United States and Canada. Not a native wildflower, Dame's Rocket was probably introduced from Eurasia in the seventeenth century, and has become well naturalized. Botanically a member of the Family Brassicaceae, it serves as host plant to butterflies like the various Whites (*Pieris* sp.) which lay eggs on this and other members of the mustard plant family. Perhaps Dame's Rocket is so abundant because deer do not like to eat it. Many people incorrectly refer to Dame's Rocket as phlox, and while native Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) does have some superficial resemblance, Woodland Phlox is five-petaled and its similar-appearing leaves are opposite, not alternately arranged.

The species name *Hesperis* refers to the Greek word for evening, not to imply the flowers open only in evening like some primroses. Dame's Rocket's blossoms are open continuously, but another distinctive feature of this plant is more evident towards evening, its odor. Dame's Rocket has a pleasant clove-like aroma, adding to its sensual delight. In some areas *Hesperis matronalis* is referred to as "mother-of-the-evening" or "sweet rocket."

I have seen Dame's Rocket over a wide variety of locations, not surprising given its range. Whenever I see it there seems to be a mix of the floral colors mentioned above. Why should that be? We know floral color is a trait genetically determined and realized through the production of various

Notice color next to water in Keuka Lake.



Anne Keddy



Nancy Peek

chemical pigments. In Dame's Rocket, the color determining pigment is principally anthocyanin. These pigments, expressed in plant cell vacuoles, are water soluble and known to vary from red through purple, blue, or black, depending on pH. Lack of pigmentation would result in a white flower, and the other color ranges seen in Dame's Rocket may be expressed through anthocyanins, depending on environmental circumstances.

Anthocyanins are widely distributed among plants. These ubiquitous pigments are responsible for the color of raspberries, blueberries, and black rice. Many tree species, notably maples, produce anthocyanins in their leaves. Some botanists suspect those pigments serve as a type of sunscreen for the leaf. In fall, when chlorophyll production declines, the red of autumn leaves is due to anthocyanins, and the leaf's orange colors are these same anthocyanins combined with the yellow from carotene pigments.

Anthocyanins are known to have an important role in plant/animal interactions. There is experimental support for these pigments serving as attractants for pollinators, and possibly also frugivores that eat the plant's fruit and thereby spread its seeds. Alternatively, these same pigments may also function to camouflage and protect some plant structures, or serve as visual warnings to potential herbivores of possibly toxic substances.

But when you see Dame's Rocket, there is often the whole range of flower colors in a given patch. From the chemical properties of anthocyanins, we may be able to explain how the colors can be differently expressed, but that does not tell us why there are

differences. Biotic factors like insect interactions could trigger differences within a stand of Dame's Rocket. And recent investigations also hint at abiotic factors. Examination of a large number of herbarium records spanning 124 years suggests that temperatures and aridity (essentially low humidity) also strongly influence anthocyanin production, but in opposite directions. Higher temperatures result in less pigmentation, and lower aridity results in more anthocyanin pigment. In any given patch of Dame's Rocket, some plants will be a bit warmer or moister than others, perhaps enough to affect flower color.

More importantly, climate change, with its effects on temperature and rainfall distribution, may become more and more a driver of anthocyanin production and subsequent flower color. Given the function of anthocyanins for plant/animal interactions, there is the potential there for influencing plant survival and reproduction, not just for Dame's rocket, but for all the plants relying in some way on these anthocyanin pigments.

As you wander over various stretches of the Finger Lakes Trail this summer watch for Dame's Rocket. Notice the various shades of floral coloration, and see if you can find a trend. Are the plants in warm and moist environments showing more whites? Are the patches in cooler, drier areas more purple/blue? Or is there still something more about these attractive, variably-colored flowers that we still need to discover? Nature never gives up her secrets easily. 🍁



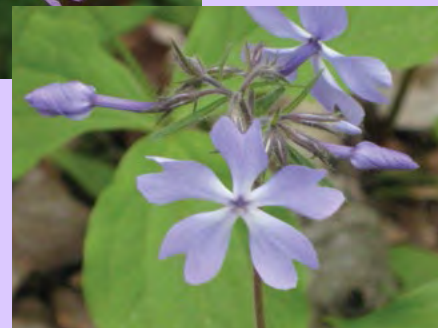
Irene Szabo



Mark Valites

◀ ▼ Note five petals on these true phlox, and they were blooming in early May, not June as is more typical for Dame's Rocket.

◀ Dame's Rocket at the edge of my old Mt. Morris yard, white by dryer yard, more purple by stream edge.



Randy Weidner

What's the Triad? What's the June Bug?

Kirk House



Two spur trails on Map M12 take us back to the pioneer days of aviation.

June Bug was the third of four airplanes that Glenn Curtiss and the Aerial Experiment Association created in 1908. One day Curtiss collected a businesswomen who had helped him get his start, drove her out to the flying field in Pleasant Valley, and gave her the honor of naming the airplane.

Elderly Mrs. Bennett, who had known Revolutionary War veterans, was too flummoxed to come up with a name for a flying machine. Alexander Graham Bell graciously stepped in to suggest June Bug, both for the month and for the insects that were prevalent at the moment.

It looks mighty ungainly to us, but June Bug pioneered the use of ailerons and tricycle landing gear, besides winning the Scientific American Trophy for a spectacular flight before a thousand spectators on the Fourth of July.

“Triad” was an unofficial type designation, coined after Curtiss created and began manufacturing a practical seaplane in 1911. The new planes with a large central float could go three ways – in the air, on the water, and on the land... in the sense that you could lower the wheels and run onto or off of the beach. They weren't strong enough to be used as landing gear. The U. S. Navy sent officers to Hammondsport to take possession of a Triad that the Navy deemed A-1, learn to fly, and perform tests on the aircraft.

June Bug was not preserved, though a handful of Triads survive around the world. Curtiss Museum has flying reproductions of both the June Bug and the A-1 Triad. 🍁



1st Naval Aircraft



AEA June Bug

Join the FLT Googlegroup E-Mail List

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

The co-moderators who oversee the use of this electronic mailing list and offer help with questions are: Larry Blumberg (lblumberg@stny.rr.com) and Scott Geiger, (scott.geiger@gmail.com).

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

End-to-End Update

Jacqui Wensich, End-to-End Coordinator



Main (First of 2021)

#490 Myra Shulman, Ithaca

#491 Jim Morin, Ithaca

#492 Art Smolinski aka Tic Toc, thru hiker, Rome

Branch (none)

Updates:

Jason Draper plans to hike M16-19 this summer. Chris Garfield, Michael Dropp, and Patrice Campbell plan to thru hike the trail this year. Cynthia Ripple has decided to try to finish the main and branch trails as she lives near the trail in Hornell and has hiked many segments over the years. Her son is helping her. Arthur Smolinski (#492) was assisted by his wife. Myra and Jim met Art on the trail. Dennis Permoda is back on the trail. Check out his excellent journal(www.trailjournals.com), trail name "Lone Ranger."

Comments:

Thanks to Deb Nero there is an updated main trail spreadsheet 2021 available on the FLT website or directly from me (jwensich@rochester.rr.com). Hikers can transfer the data from the older version easily. Remember you do not have to re-hike trail changes once you have completed an area.

Regarding keeping me updated: I sometimes get hike by hike updates or long segment updates or just notification of finishing. This is up to the hiker. I like receiving full resolution captioned photos of thru/daily/back-packing hikers and often use these photos on Facebook and in the *FLT News*. It is best for thru hikers and those close to finishing the main trail to send me a completed main trail application. Then they can just let me know exactly when they have completed the trail. This usually guarantees the correct end to end number assignment. Note not just the date but the time and who gets the first number if more than one finishes. Yes, there have been several occasions when hikers completed the trail on the same day. This includes the county hike finishes where everyone usually finishes on the same day so the exact time is very important.

Car Spotter News

Steve Suffet (M20) no longer is on the car spotter list. We thank him for his long-time assistance.

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*.

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

TIPS for aspiring end-to-enders:

1. Review the End-to-End Hiking section on the FLT website.
2. Join the FLT egroup, hiking@fingerlakestrail.org (often find more spotters and specific location hints.)
3. Purchase new MAPS (remember FLT members receive a 20% discount for all purchases). Waypoints are also available.
4. *Check trail conditions online frequently.*
5. If you are not already a member, join the FLTC. Membership supports this wonderful trail.
6. Let me know about when you plan to complete the main/branch trails to receive the correct number.
7. Email captioned photos in high resolution as you hike and keep trail notes, so you can write your end-to-end article.
8. Car spotters "spot" you or your car for designated areas. It is not a shuttle. Longer rides must be arranged on your own.

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
585/385-2265

Trail Topics: Trail Maintenance

Jon Bowen, VP of Trail Maintenance



NEW ROVING CREW

On Sunday April 19, our **new roving crew** got their first trail work assignment and perhaps their most strenuous. No one in the group had ever done trail benching and many didn't know what it was, but they volunteered anyway. The day started with Michaela Aney, our new Director of Trail Development staff person, defining "benching" and how it is done. The group set off on the steep switchbacks of Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management Area on Map M8 for the remainder of the day. The crew included Kristen Guthrie, Michele McCall, Donald Lowe, Laurie Ondrejka, Pete Hagmire, Jon Bowen, and Michaela. Look at our pictures to see how good benching gives a hiker a level place to plant her feet, even on a steep side slope.

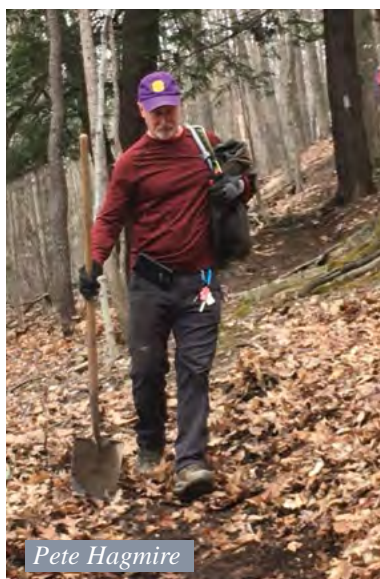
All participants are looking forward to the next project which may be on M5, M18, or in Peter Wybron's area again. We are still adding members to our roving crew.

GRANT FUNDS TRAIL IMPROVEMENT

The North Country Trail Association Field Grant Committee agreed to **fully fund** a request for the **Sugar Hill State Forest puncheon** project, providing **\$1,175** for the project. Thank you to Bill Meehan for applying for this grant.



The whole crew and that's about all: Michaela Aney, Kristen Guthrie, Donald Lowe, Laurie Ondrejka, Pete Hagmire, Michele McCall.



Pete Hagmire

Shows the steep side slope that needs taming. Walking along that slope for very long would give a hiker very tired ankles and feet, and the tread could be slippery.



Laurie and Pete

See how steep the hillside is? So quickly we are well above the road below, and there is a long way to go! This is the long steep hillside across from Swain ski resort, climbing to the top of Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management Area, so it's an area with unavoidable hills.



Michele and Kristen

See how the bench is taking shape? Cut into the hillside's steepness, a tread for hikers' feet is being created. Of course, it has to be kept visible and useful, so every fall or spring, fall's leaves need to be swept out of the foot tread! Yes, that may sound crazy, but it's needed.

Contact: Jon Bowen
325/638-8749
jkbowen@gmail.com

STATEWIDE TRAIL COUNCIL

Our FLTC Trail Council met recently through email exchange as well as a Zoom meeting. Fifty-eight people representing FLTC, DEC, NYS Parks, a trail running club and others interested were invited. There was good discussion on a variety of topics. Here is a list of our Regional Trail Coordinators (RTCs) who have the responsibility to oversee sections of the FLT System and their projects for 2021.

Jeanne Moog and Frank Occhiuto

Conservation Branch Trail (CT 1-12) and M1-M4

- CT3 (M3)—open trail from Poverty Hill Road to Rt 219
- CT4 (M4)—junction of CT and main trail to be rerouted, signed, and blazed
- CT6—AlleyCat at Holland Ravines

David Malinowsky

M4-M6

- Various trail reroutes and moving trail off road.
- Several new maintainers to work with.

Irene Szabo

Letchworth Branch Trail (terminus on M7)

- Hoping for the Park administration to approve a route out of the south end of the park.
- American Hiking Society may do work in the park this year.

Peter Wybron

M7-M11

- The Roving Crew will be working to improve the trail and complete reroutes.
- Move more trail off road.
- Fiberglass privy for Slater Creek State Forest.
- Add more puncheons to the trail.
- Recruited a volunteer to use a DR Mower throughout this section of trail

Donna Noteware

Bristol Hills Branch (terminus on M12)

- Map B2, Access 7—Move trail off Brink Hill Road into High Tor Wildlife Management Area, 1.5 miles of trail

Pat Monahan

Crystal Hills Branch (terminus on M13)

- Continue to work on trail easements.
- Work with 4 new maintainers who are rehabilitating trail

Bill Meehan

M12-M14

- Sugar Hill State Forest—construct puncheons using NCTA Field Grant.
- Queen Catharine Marsh Loop—repair and build bridges.
- Watkins Glen State Park—build 40 feet of stairs up steep hillside.
- Reroute trail between Watkins Glen State Park and Sugar Hill State Forest. Closed due to hiker misuse.

Dave Priester

M15-M19, Interloken Branch Trail

- Build puncheons on Abbott Loop.
- M18 off Rt 79—puncheons or boardwalk to be added.
- M15 Cayuta Gulf bridge will be repaired.
- M18 near Coddington Road will have a significant new route

with purchase by Finger Lakes Land Trust.

- Altogether, there are 37 issues to be addressed on this section of trail this year.

Peter Dady

M19-21

Tony Rodriguez

Onondaga Branch Trail and M21-M22

- Rowley Hill Road area—a major reroute and relocate puncheons
- Build privy at Paradise Hill Lean-to
- O1 and O2—repair benching and add puncheons

Tom Bryden

M22-M24

- Finish the Kopac Trail reroute
- M23 and M24 new puncheons to be added
- New bridge and reroute near Perkins Lean-to

Larry Blumberg and Roy Dando

M24-M26

- Purchase a new string trimmer
- Build new puncheons on this trail section.

Don Sutherland

M26-M27

- Work to repair bridge over Dry Brook. It's a trout stream so permissions are complicated.
- Decide what to do about the Masonville bridge, again complicated with County/Town entities.

Rick Roberts

M27-M33 Catskills

- This large area frequently needs new sponsors.
- The upgraded Rock Rift Fire Tower may open to hikers soon.
- Looking for property to move the trail off Denning Road.
- Building short reroute in Village of Downsville.
- M28—Hoping to move the trail off Houck Mountain Road

CATSKILLS SPONSORS NEEDED

Rick has two vacancies for which he needs new sponsors, each of them about 3 miles long. **One is on Map M28 near Cannonsville Reservoir, from CR 47 to Chamberlain Brook Rd. Mostly gradual slopes plus a couple short steep sections.**

The second is on Map M30, from Mary Smith Rd. to Holiday-Berry Brook Rd., with some steep sections. It's basically up and over the mountain. To learn about either section, contact volunteer@fingerlakestrail.org

ANOTHER SPONSOR NEEDED

Pete Wybron needs someone to adopt this section between Bath and Hornell:

Map M-11 Harris Hill Rd (AP2) to Snell Hill Rd (AP3) about 1.6 miles of mostly wooded trail, no road walk. No lean-tos or bivouac areas, one trail register box. All on private land, level trail.

To volunteer or learn more, contact volunteer@fingerlakestrail.org. 🍁

Trail Topics: Thank You, Bill and Marty

Lynda Rummel, Retiring VP of Trail Quality



I took my first Game of Logging (GOL) course from Bill Lindloff in 2004. It was mind-blowing. It wasn't exactly your grandpa's chainsaw training, or even your dad's, and it's even less so now.

Around 2006, Marty Howden was asked to look after our chainsaw training; in 2008, when I became Director (now VP) of Trail Quality in charge of training for trail management, Marty became the volunteer chainsaw training coordinator and Marty and I have overseen chainsaw certification training for the FLTC ever since. This gave both of us the fortunate opportunity to work with Bill and with each other for just short of two decades. Marty brought his background as an NYS park administrator, and I brought my enthusiasm to the task. We both became (re, re, re, re-)certified sawyers and one or the other of us attended every course that Bill put on for us, so should it ever be necessary, we could attest to the quality of the training and to the skills of the participants. I also observed two United States Forest Service S 212 courses, for comparison. There simply was no comparison.

Over the years, Bill studied the kind of tree work we trail maintainers need to do and adjusted our training accordingly. Although each participant still must fell a greater than 10" DBH tree onto a stake Bill plants in the ground, his course has focused increasingly on the situations created by ice storms, strong winds and microbursts, trees hanging up or falling onto and into each other into messes of embracing trunks and intertwined branches, and competing stresses and tensions. With compassion, some hard love, and a lot of teasing, Bill taught us how to deal with all these problems, safely. Bill also volunteered to help us with problems beyond our capabilities and that required the skills of an expert logger, such as cutting down some 90 to 100' tall larch in Goundry Hill State Forest that the forester asked us to harvest. (These trees were converted into three "kits" to make log lean-tos along the FLT.) Bill gave us the best gift of all, the willingness to recognize when a situation was beyond our capabilities and walk away from it.

At no cost to themselves, just a few shy of 150 different individuals went through these classes, including not only our FLT volunteer trail workers but also several NYS foresters, forest rangers, and ECO's, Finger Lakes Land Trust employees, and



Lynda Rummel

April 24-25, 2021 Chainsaw Certification Class

Front row, L to R: Bill Lindloff (instructor, Game of Logging), Stephanie Campbell (NCTA Vermont – N.Y. RTC), Dave Drum, Larry Chesebro

Back row, L to R: Richard Swank (high score tee-shirt winner), Scott Bowen, Tom Moutsos (NCTA Penna. – Ohio RTC), Joe McMahon, Todd Beverly, Matt Garrison



Lynda Rummel

May 15-16, 2021 Chainsaw Certification Class

Front row, L to R: Michaela Aney, John Underhill, Jeff Darling

Back row, L to R: Dennis Permoda, Nigel Dyson-Hudson, Don Sutherland, Don Lowe, Pat Monahan, Mike Kramer, Bill Lindloff (instructor)



Stephanie Campbell

our colleagues from the NCTA's Central NY Chapter and N.Y./Vermont and Pennsylvania regions. Each of us promised to work outside our home area when asked and when we could. Since each of us is retiring, both Marty and I expect that Michaela Aney, our new staff Director of Trail Development and a well-qualified GOL certified sawyer herself, will coordinate our courses with Bill next season and long into the future. 🍁

The changing of the guard: Lynda Rummel, left, retiring from her longtime role as VP of Trail Quality, our continuing instructor Bill Lindloff center, and Michaela Aney, our first staff for Trail Development. Marty Howden was not present for his last weekend of supervising this training function.

Trolling For New Members

Irene Szabo, Editor



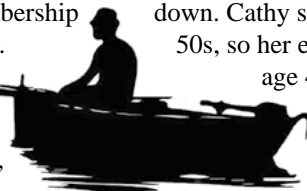
Cathy Ackerson is an enthused relatively new member herself, and wants to share the trail with everybody she likes! So she started giving the Finger Lakes Trail as a present last fall, as membership gifts for birthdays and Christmas, maybe even ten by now.

I had previously met her only on the Finance Committee; we meet monthly but are old fuds who do a phone conference, and have never switched to Zoom, so I've never even seen several of the Finance members, including Cathy. So I was delighted to talk to her about her effort to drag everybody she knows to the trail, once I learned about her tactics.

Not only has she given memberships to several friends, but when she returned from an event at Steuben Brewing northeast of Bath to her Buffalo area home, she gave away a bunch of beer collections, too. Conventional wisdom has it that many people get really

involved with the trail only after 40, once the little kids have grown some and the all-consuming tasks of job and home are settling down. Cathy says her group of victims ranges from 30 to early 50s, so her effort should land on fertile ground. However, at age 44 herself, she has just embarked on caring for a 6-year-old foster child with her partner! Gasp.

We hope passionately that each of her gift memberships renews during this year, and learns to love the trail as much as she does. Cathy can't wait for our spring and fall weekends to return, since she thinks they are the best opportunity to have fun, take new hikes, and enjoy having everything already arranged, meals and lodging, so all she has to do is write a check! 🍁



Membership Benefits

- ♦ A subscription to the Finger Lakes Trail News magazine, printed four times per year.
- ♦ A 20% discount on all items you purchase from the FLTC store (except memberships and donations).
- ♦ One vote (two votes for Family memberships) at membership meetings of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference.
- ♦ A portion of your dues may be tax deductible; consult your tax advisor.
- ♦ The satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a magnificent recreational legacy.

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.)

Pathfinder Memberships:

Youth (under 17)	\$15
Student (under 24)	\$15
Limited Income	\$30
Adult	\$40
Family	\$60
Youth Organization	\$30

Sustaining Memberships:

Trail Blazer	\$100-\$249
Trail Builder	\$250-\$499
Trail Guide	\$500-\$999
Trail Patron	\$1000 +



Lifetime (Individual)	\$600
Lifetime (Family)	\$900

Trail Topics: FLT Interactive Maps

Roger Hopkins, Website/Mapping Committee



The FLTC Interactive maps are the most frequently visited pages on our website. Hikers from every corner of New York State and around the USA visit these pages to plan their hikes and purchase our paper and digital download maps. You can find the Interactive maps at <https://fingerlakestrail.org/interactive>

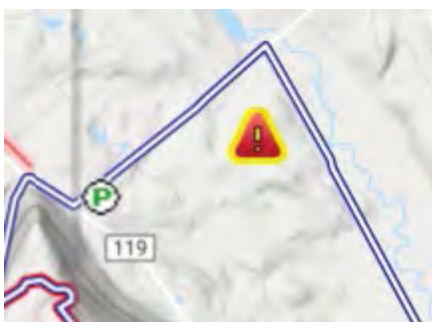
The website has pages displaying the full FLT System map, four region maps (Allegany, Western and Eastern Finger Lakes, and Catskills), the section of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) carried on the FLT system, and the Index map where you can click on a map and add the paper or digital download map to your shopping cart. There are also additional information pages for each map you can find by clicking the map icons ( and ) on any of the interactive maps.

The interactive maps are created from the data in the GPX files maintained by the Mapping Committee. Whenever any revisions are made to the mapping files, the interactive maps and the store maps are immediately updated.

Here are just two of the many interactive map features you can use to make sure that your hikes are SAFE, LEGAL, and ENJOYABLE. Other features are shown in a video presentation on our YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/_7hrhGjpuA

Temporary closure notice

Temporary closures are used when a section of trail is closed to all hikers due to a temporary condition such as logging or a special event. They are also used when the condition may become a permanent closure, but a reroute has not been determined and the maps have not been revised. Here is an example:



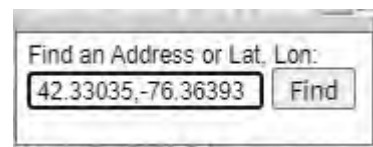
When you click on the symbol, the trail condition notice will display. Use this feature before leaving for your hike so you can avoid blundering onto a closed trail.

Find a location

If you look in the center of the interactive map, you should see a small crosshair symbol. If you do not see this symbol, click on the word "Center" in the lower left corner of the map to toggle the visibility on and off. The latitude and longitude coordinates of the symbol are shown in the box. If you pan the map by dragging it with your mouse, you will see the coordinates change. Double-click on the coordinates and they will be selected so you can copy to your clipboard for later use, for example, to paste into a trail condition report or send a location to a friend.



If you have the coordinates of a location, you can find the exact spot on the interactive map. Simply copy the coordinates into the Find box in the lower left corner the interactive map. Then click the Find button and the map will be centered on that location. You can also find a spot using a street address or a name of a town or geographic feature. 🍁



Contact: Roger Hopkins
roger@naturalhighs.net

Thank You

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

LANDMAX

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



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

Trail Topics: Trail Preservation Report



David Newman, VP of Trail Preservation

Landowner Laurie Shoulter Karall contacted FLTC to kick off the process for granting an easement on her property on McLaughlin Road, Town of Ashford, Cattaraugus County. (FLTC Map CT04). Her family was from Tonawanda, near Buffalo. Her grandfather bought the property about 85 years ago and Laurie remembers the fun times the family had at the property over the years. In a bittersweet story that we've heard from other landowners, over time their usage dwindled and in Laurie's case she now lives in Chicago. The decision was made to sell the property to a neighbor but before that transaction closed Laurie wanted to make sure the trail would be allowed to remain, forever. Thanks to Laurie, the public can continue to use the trail on the property, and when she or her family do have a chance to visit the trail will be there for them, too.

In a prior issue of FLT News we reported that our friends at the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) had acquired a key parcel on Coddington Road, Town of Caroline, Tompkins County (FLTC Map M18) that will allow a new and highly desirable route for the FLT to descend Eastman Hill to the Wilseyville Creek valley. Originally our FLTC Board had agreed to go in 50/50 with FLLT and purchase this parcel, subsequent to which the owners generously donated it to FLLT. FLLT still will have costs to

build a parking area and kiosk, some closing costs, and ongoing administration costs on the property. Since the land was donated, we won't need to pay the 50% acquisition cost that had been expected. The FLTC Board instead agreed to make a \$25,000 contribution from the Sidote Trail Preservation Fund to FLLT with the stipulation that the parking and kiosk be built and we get a permanent Trail Access Easement. Unlike the other properties on Eastman Hill that FLLT has purchased and sold or will sell to DEC, this donated parcel will be retained by FLLT and managed in accordance with a restrictive Conservation Easement. 🍁



Bodhi Rogers

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

Dedicated to the Dogs Who Hike With Us - Update



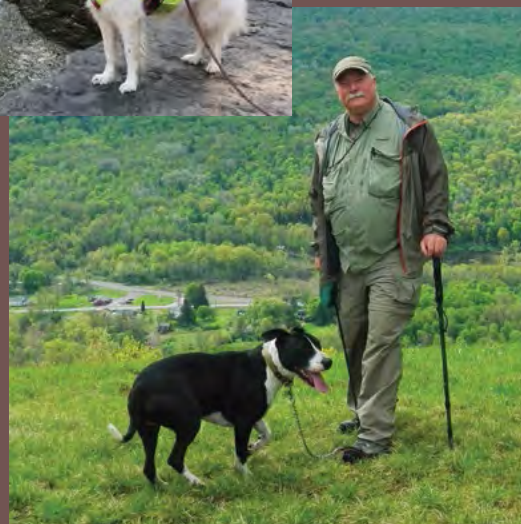
Jacqui Wensich

Three new dogs that were added to the Moss Hill Shelter plaque. Tags cost \$25.00.



Lisa Barrett

Annie



Brian Armstrong

Timber and Kevin 2013



Brian Armstrong

Popeye and Kevin 2020

Trail Topics: Mini Cats and Alley Cats 2021

Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews and Construction



Planning and organizing the two scheduled Alley Cats for Holland and Letchworth has been underway for some time now as Michaela Aney, members of the Foothills Trail Club, and I have hiked the trails identifying various issues that we would like to address. Michaela, our new Director of Trail Development, and I evaluated the Letchworth Trail from Access C to Access F in April and have submitted over 300 items we would like to see addressed to the Park's administration thus far. This does not include the GPS plots submitted in March 2020 that will also be addressed this August including a partial reroute of access E that has been a muddy mess for years. Most of the work will involve benching, creating drainages and armoring creek crossings. After a lot of thought and the input from others within the FLTC who will be assisting with cooking and transportation issues along with the status of the pandemic, I will be hosting the American Hiking Society trail crew to be a part of the Letchworth Alley Cat. It has been a long time in coming to realize this event and I am looking forward to meeting like-minded volunteers who want to help us out on the trail and partake of the beauty Letchworth State Park and the surrounding area have to offer.

Likewise, Jake Kern and Dave Kaczmariski and I hiked the Holland Ravines in late April and identified over 200 issues over 9.5 miles of trail. Most of the work we identified include benching and drainage work that wasn't a significant part of the 2007 Alley Cat and it will be great to see these improvements made. There is also a fair amount of construction to be undertaken. The stairs, steps and culverts put in back in 2007 need some tender loving care along with some new construction of puncheons, and a slide system Michaela and I have been working on to shunt falling shale from accumulating on some staircases will be implemented. As you can see from the photos, shale continuously falls down onto the steps and a small retaining wall will be attached to the ladder stairs along with some cut up black culverts to catch the shale and slide it down to the bottom of the ravine.

Speaking of retaining walls, the Bristol Hills Trail Alley Cat is moving forward. The permits have been sent in for approval as some changes to overall plans had to be made to lower the cost of the trees needed for the wall. The original plan called for two 80' retaining walls to be put in to slow the erosion of the sides of the creek where a 40' bridge was put in back in 2010. As many of you already know, the cost of wood has risen dramatically, which has increased the costs of the Alley Cats this year and the current plan will now be to limit the length of those walls to 64'. I am still seeking a construction manager for this project. Overall the project isn't that difficult. Sixteen-foot white oak trees will be delivered to the road side; a tractor will take them the first quarter mile to the edge of the forest. From there, the trees will be winched into the creek another quarter mile down the trail, lowered into the creek bed and secured with rebar. In 2010, I was a part of the Alley Cat that winched in telephone poles to be moved using the same process. We had two folks with rock bars

periodically guiding the poles over trail hazards and it wasn't that difficult to winch a 40' telephone pole to the site.

I was notified by the DEC that we will not be able to put a lean-to in the Catskills portion of the trail at the present time. The Unit Management Plan needs to be updated to address this and we have to wait until the DEC decides to amend it in the future. A location for the lean-to is being evaluated and identified and once we secure approval for it, I will send out a call for volunteers to assist in its construction.

The Letchworth Alley Cat is scheduled for August 2nd thru the 6th and volunteers can email me at pageazi@yahoo.com for details and to volunteer. The loft beds at the Letchworth State Park Conference Center are reserved for the American Hiking Society crew, but we can accommodate several others in the basement with social distancing.

The Holland Alley Cat is scheduled for August 23rd thru the 27th and volunteers can send email to: FoothillsTrailClub@yahoo.com. We will be reserving a limited number of campsites that can accommodate RVs, campers and tents near Holland, NY. Please indicate if you require a campsite and what accommodations you will need. 🍁



Jake Kern

Existing stairs at Holland Ravines Notice how leaves and shale are slipping downhill to cover steps, always a problem with even benched trail, which often fills with soil and leaves, too. In truth, the trail caretaker should SWEEP this kind of trail periodically to keep it useable for the hiker at least once a year.

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

Board Nominations



Members will vote on the nominees, listed below, for the Board of Managers. Other nominations may be made in accordance with our bylaws. A proxy form for those unable to attend will be mailed in late summer. Further information may be requested from the FLT Service Center at 585/658-9320.

Nominees for the Class of 2024 Board of Managers.

Ann Bayley

Christine DeGolyer

Tim Holahan

Terry Meacham

Lisette Smith

ANN BAYLEY

This past year I have learned a new appreciation for the Finger lakes Trail and for the FLTC Board. Some of you may know two important things about me. I am a diabetic who must exercise at least 30 minutes a day for at least 5 days a week and hiking, especially in the woods, is my exercise of choice.



The second big thing is that I lost my beloved partner, Jim Moody, to cancer in April 2020. Being out of doors and out in nature has been so healing and has helped me to deal with the grief.

These are only two reasons why I am committed to the development and maintenance of the Finger Lakes Trail and grateful to have a chance to contribute to its continuation and strengthening.

I am a retired teacher of mathematics and science and have two grown children. My son has pretty severe cerebral palsy which makes me sensitive to accessibility issues. I have been hiking since I was in high school in the 50's and got back into it when I retired in 2001.

I feel honored to serve on our Board with such intelligent, talented, knowledgeable and dedicated people from across New York State. I think my skills and inclinations are related to people and events and I will continue to participate in those areas.

CHRISTINE DEGOLYER

I have hiked parts of the FLT and its branches since the 1970s, when the maps were printed on blue paper. According to records on hand, I've been a member of the FLTC for at least the last 10 years. Although not very active in the FLTC, I did some trail maintenance on the FLT in the early 2000s with ADK. I'm a retired science librarian and enjoy learning about the natural world. Currently I am working with Aaron Havill, Asha Sukha, and Irene Szabo to update the nature guide for Huckleberry Bog (Map B3). The pandemic made me realize how crucial trails like the FLT are for our well-being and nudged me to become more active in the FLTC.



Bob Berch

TIM HOLAHAN

I have great appreciation for the outdoors, for the work of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, and am interested in serving the trail community.

A 30+ year corporate career has included roles in strategic planning, marketing, finance, administrative operations, and information technology. Community leadership roles have included Scouting, church, theatre, and youth sports. I am comfortable with group facilitation and with public speaking.

Outdoor experiences include:

- Scouting: current Scoutmaster, Eagle Scout (1983)
- Search & Rescue: trained searcher with Massasauga Search & Rescue Team
- Leave No Trace: certified trainer
- Rochester Orienteering Club: lifetime member
- Adirondack High Peak 46r (have guided many youth & adults to their first ascent)
- Trail Runner (including marathons & ultra-marathons on FLTC trails)
- Preparing for extended section-hikes on Appalachian Trail in 2021



Xerox Media Services

TERRY MEACHAM

I am a retired (from clinical practice) RN with an appointment to the University of Rochester School of Nursing as a consultant and instructor. Married with child and grandchildren, I am a snowbird up here in the spring/summer/fall and in Florida during the winter months.



I am a long time member of the FLTC, having joined in the early 1990's. During my time with the FLTC I have two end to ends on the trunk trail and have end to ended the branch trails as well. My wife and I have been trail sponsors on Map M10 for many years, having been able to move two miles of trail off road into a forest. My wife and I have led cross county hikes, and for several years led the Hiking 101/201 series. I am a current board member, and chair the HR committee, am the compliance officer for the conference, and am involved in some tangential financial matters as well. We are charter members of the Forever Society.

LISETTE SMITH

My name is Lisette Smith and I am interested in being considered for the Board of Managers for the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. I love the outdoors and like to hike, bike and ski, especially in New York State. I'd love to become more involved with the Finger Lakes Trail, other than just hiking it! I live in Rochester and am the Director of Marketing for a multi-office dental company in the Southern Tier. I have experience in marketing, event planning, and communications. I went to SUNY Geneseo where I double majored in Business Administration and Psychology. I received my Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at Binghamton University. I think I'd be a great addition to the team! Thank you for considering me.



Miles With Mark

Mark Valites, a trail runner and trail care adopter



Note: I've moved and now maintain FLT Map M2/CT2, between Little Rock City and Route 353. Please remember to sign those trail registers; this antler shed (on the rear cover) was lying within sight of the register at the Rock City Lean-to on my new section and could have been yours if you'd signed in and just looked up! (See picture on back cover.)

Buffalo doesn't offer much in the way of noteworthy trails of any significant distance within the city limits, but we are lucky to have a surprising amount of excellent single track trail just a short drive away. The following are some the highlights from a runner's perspective:

North of the city, Niagara Falls certainly steals the spotlight, but the trails winding through several state parks along the top and bottom of the downstream gorge are unrivaled for the views and powerful water beside them. With much of the immediate surrounding area offering little change in elevation, runners often utilize the stone staircase in Devil's Hole State Park for a challenging hill workout; the climb up the steps offers ~275 feet of gain in a mere mile! The Rainbow Bridge here also serves as the northern terminus of the FLT's Conservation Trail.

Even locals are often surprised to learn the Erie County Parks system offers nearly 10,000 acres of publicly accessible land, spread across forty sites (the Conservation Trail passes through five). The sites vary from manicured waterfront parks to seldom visited forestry lots, but several within 30-45 minutes of the city offer great single track trails:

The first and closest county park to the city happens to also be the largest and one of the most visited, Chestnut Ridge. "The Ridge's" most frequently run route is a loop that's around five miles long, with ~1000ft of elevation gain. The loop even circles a very popular natural wonder named "The Eternal Flame," which features a natural gas leak located behind a small waterfall that can be lit.

A bit northeast is Sergeant Mark A. Rademacher Memorial Park, commonly referred to as Hunters Creek. There are over 10 miles of trail throughout the ravines and along the creek here, including the Conservation Trail (which locals frequently refer to as "the orange trail"). Navigating the trails other than the Conservation Trail can be confusing to new visitors though, so be sure to grab a map from local outdoor store Gear for Adventure or one of the other stores listed on the wnymba.org website. The Western New York Land Conservancy's Kenneglenn Scenic and Nature Preserve on the adjoining property is worth a visit as well.

Just south of Hunters Creek, the Conservation Trail heads onto private land for one of its most popular sections, the Holland Ravines (FLT Map CT6). Aside from just a couple brief interruptions of road, this and the adjoining section that leads to the Erie County Forest (FLT Map CT5) is the longest contiguous

section of quality trail running in Erie County: from the beginning on Carpenter Road to the south end of the Erie County Forest is approximately 20 miles. As the name suggests, the trail here traverses rolling ravines. None of the climbs is very sustained, but they are relentless and it's very easy to underestimate this section.

Before the Conservation Trail hits the Erie County Forest, it runs just a couple miles east of another Erie County Park full of trails, Sprague Brook. Sprague Brook offers campsites within a stone's throw of the park's trails and can also be used as a base camp to visit the nearby Conservation Trail on FLT Map CT5. The park features an ~8 mile main loop, with several more miles of spur trails branching off. For those newer to trail running, there's also a flatter, non-rooty XC ski loop that winds for 2 miles under the shade of hemlocks. An ambitious runner can also run laps up the ski slopes across the street at Kissing Bridge, but be forewarned; they're steep! Of all the Erie County parks to run in, this is my favorite.



Mark Valites

Local lore has it that St. Patrick chased all the snakes off the Finger Lakes Trail and into Sprague Brook Park.

A bit further off the Conservation Trail is Erie County Park's 18 Mile Creek Conservation Park, located outside of the village of Hamburg. The main trail here runs 50-75ft above the water along the top edge of the gorge for 2 miles, with multiple waterfalls throughout. It's not uncommon to spot one of the area's bald eagles near the turn around. Being an out and back, it's a good route to run if navigating is challenging to you, but not if you're afraid of heights.

When longer distances are needed, trail runners often head a bit more south, to areas more widely known for those familiar with the FLT: Rock City/McCarty Hill State Forests, Allegany State Park and the Allegheny National Forest. All three offer significant amounts of not just the Finger Lakes Trail/North Country National Scenic Trail, but enough to easily run a 50K or more.



Mark Valites

A spot on our FLT Map M1 (or CT1) through endless forest.

While the trails mentioned previously are where you're most likely to find Buffalo area trail runners, there are many, many more throughout western New York, all of which have seen an influx of more traditional hikers in the last year. Some are undoubtedly due to the pandemic, but a remarkable number of the hikers I've bumped into tell me they've discovered the trails through the FLT's free FLT50 challenge and Outside Chronicle's WNY Hiking challenge. Trail register entries reflect this as well.

The FLT's FLT50 Challenge launched last year and was wildly popular in its first year for both hikers and runners. The Challenge is on again and runs through the end of the year, so be sure to check out the FLT's website for more info and to get signed up.

The WNY Hiking challenge comes to us from Outside Chronicles, which started as a blog to share outdoor adventures and over the years has grown a considerable social media presence. This challenge was started in 2019 "to provide the tools, education, and motivation to get people on the trails." It has unquestionably been incredibly successful in doing so and has really exploded since last year: as of the end of April, over 4000 hikers have registered for the 2021 challenge and WKBW reports it has raised about \$70,000 so far! Proceeds raised from the challenge have been donated to environmental and conservation causes and the Finger Lakes Trail Conference is one of two beneficiaries for the challenge's proceeds this year, along with the Western New York Land Conservancy.

Many of the hikes in the WNY Hiking Challenge feature destinations along the FLT; it's exciting to see so much interest in the beautiful sections of trail in our area of the state because of it. New to the challenge this summer is a series of five longer distance "ultra" hikes, ranging from 15-22 miles. All five take place at least partially on the FLT! I've had the opportunity to work with Mike Radomski, founder of Outside Chronicles and the WNY Hiking Challenge, providing some input on the maps and routes he's put together for the ultra challenge. Like me, Mike loves the outdoors, trails and the FLT. I've been particularly impressed with his emphasis on Leave No Trace and responsible trail use, so I'm happy to support his efforts. There is still plenty of time to sign up since the Challenge runs through November 19, 2021. Details can be found at <https://outsidechronicles.com/challenge>

Whether you take part in the WNY Hiking Challenge, the FLT50 or some other hiking challenge or group, a trip over to western NY is a worthwhile endeavor to hike or run and it would not surprise me if we bump into each other on one of our trails. 🍁

THANKS TO OUR TRAIL LANDOWNERS

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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE

*FLT Fall Weekend is Sept. 17, 18, 19,
2021 at Greek Peak near Cortland
Details will be on the website soon (www.fingerlakestrail.org)*

*Naturally, everything is pending
coronavirus standards.*

Hikers Say "Thank You" to Generous Landowners

Patti Singer, FLTC Communications Committee Chair



The applause was muffled, coming as it did through mittens and gloves.

But the sentiment was clear.

During a break on the Finger Lakes Trail-Steuben Brewing Company hike in March, hike leader Deb Nero took a moment to single out a special participant. "Someone mentioned we had a landowner with us," she said after the hike. "I made a point of thanking him for having the FLT on their property." When she did, the group turned to Dennis O'Connor and repeated Nero's sentiments.

"That was really nice," said O'Connor, who owns land with friends Lee Westbrook and Bob Plaskov. "I had said something to the leader, but I hadn't expected her to announce it. I hadn't expected any accolades for being the landowner. When I saw the hike was going to be on our property, I thought, 'That's great.' I made a point of emailing my partners and letting them know how appreciative people were."

O'Connor and Westbrook own a parcel adjacent to Plaskov's on the Bristol Hills Trail outside of Mitchellsville in Steuben County, on Map B3. Plaskov, who is involved with the Finger Lakes Trail Conference in various ways, including as a Trail Sponsor, broached the idea a few years ago of the trio granting an easement so the trail would stay on that land forever.

The 1,000-mile FLT has about 500 miles of public land and 500 miles of private land, something hikers may not realize. The private land spans about 750 parcels. Of those, about 100 – covering around 65 miles -- are protected in perpetuity by easements. That means if the property is sold, the new owner is obligated to abide by the easement.

Given the expanse of the FLT, from the Pennsylvania border to the Catskills, the amount protected by easements may seem small. "I think it's fantastic," said Dave Newman, vice president of trail preservation for the FLTC. "Given the easement program really didn't get much of a start until around 1995, the fact that we had around 100 landowners agree to give us an easement is a good start."

Newman said the FLTC tries to make it as easy as possible for landowners to grant an easement. The Trail Conference does the paperwork and pays the filing fee. About the only work the landowner has to do is get his or her signature notarized. Newman said occasionally a landowner will call the FLTC and initiate discussion about an easement. But often, a



Lee Westbrook

One of the three landowners is Lee Westbrook, and he shared these pictures he has taken on their hilltop property.



Lee Westbrook

landowner decides to grant permanent use after a conversation with a trail steward or a volunteer with FLTC who maintains the section that crosses the landowner's property.

Plaskov had thought about an easement, but the idea was dormant until he started working on legal paperwork with Newman on other easements. Plaskov talked to his partners, and they readily agreed.

"We enjoy the property and see no reason why other people shouldn't get to enjoy it also," Westbrook said.

Landowners allow the trail on their property, but volunteers maintain the footpath. While hikers thanked O'Connor, he expressed appreciation for those who tend to the FLT.

"The people who devote their time and energy to supporting and maintaining this trail are just wonderful," he said. "We support it 100 percent." 🍁



Lake David at dawn.

Irene Szabo

This easement described on the previous page creates one of our longest protected sections of trail. Now made permanent is the climb on Bristol Hills Map B3 from CR 13 uphill through first older forest on the steep part to young forest and then bushy sections on the approach at the top to Lake David, a trailside jewel that is also protected by an easement granted by previous owner Jan Cranch and family, beyond and adjacent to that owned by our three friends above. So these connected easements cover roughly a mile of trail!

I used to be the trail sponsor through here, from 1987 until recent old age ruined that fun. The trail around the lake was long enough that I bought my own trail mower. It's a monumental relief to have the trail protected all the way up from the highway below. When the Cranch family used to come to the lake from the Rochester area, they'd drop off the kids down at the trailhead on CR 13, who would then try to run up the LOOONG hill to the lake before their parents could drive up a dirt sideroad.

Irene Szabo, editor

State Forest Management: Producing Timber for Multiple Benefits

Greg Owens, Senior Forester with NYSDEC in Sherburne



Veteran hikers along the Finger Lakes Trail have inevitably encountered timber harvesting operations on State Forests. Reactions from the public vary since the grind of heavy equipment and the sound of trees falling to the ground can be a disruption to a tranquil walk in the woods. And stumps, slash, and other post-harvest conditions can certainly add an element of destruction to an otherwise bucolic scene. But, despite the noise and seemingly coarse initial outcomes, timber production on State Forests is essential for sustaining growth and regenerating native forests, enhancing wildlife habitat, and contributing renewable resources to New York State's wood products economy.

Central New York and much of the northeastern United States share a common history of forest clearing in the 19th century and regrowth in the 20th century. Beginning in the early 1800s, the forests of Central New York were cleared for agriculture. Trees were felled and burned to establish farms, and by 1840 much of the landscape was open. Following the Civil War, urbanization, westward expansion, and demand for industrial labor changed the region's social and economic conditions. People moved to cities to work in factories, mills, and sweatshops while others heeded the call of "go west young man and grow up with the country." By the early 20th century, Central New York's rural population had declined dramatically and many farms and rural communities had disappeared. In the absence of plowing and grazing, the region's open landscape began its slow but steady return to forest. Today, there is more forestland in Central New York than at any time in the past 150 years.

In 1929, New York State undertook an ambitious program to reclaim former agricultural land through reforestation and

scientific forest management. Governor Franklin Roosevelt argued that "the greater part of New York's rural land should be put into a different type of crop which will take many years to harvest, but which as the years go by, will, without question, be profitable and at the same time economically necessary – the growing of trees." Together with Senator Charles Hewitt, chairman of the state senate's powerful finance committee, Roosevelt successfully campaigned for the passage of the State Reforestation Act that authorized the Conservation Department to purchase lands to plant, grow, and harvest trees. Roosevelt also established the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration to hire thousands of New Yorkers left jobless by the Great Depression to work on the newly acquired reforestation lands. Shortly after his inauguration in 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt drew on his experience as governor of New York and signed legislation establishing the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). He pledged to put a million men to work in a national reforestation program. The legacy of the CCC in New York is evident in the thousands of acres of State Forest planted to conifer trees.

Today, there are more than 786,000 acres of State Forest land managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Division of Lands and Forests. State Forest management is guided by a multiple use mission of watershed protection, timber production, recreation, and wildlife conservation.

DEC's Strategic Plan for State Forest Management was completed in 2011 and provides a blueprint for sustaining the natural, cultural, and economic resources that these forests provide. The Strategic Plan aligns future management of State Forests with the principle of ecosystem management and provides a foundation

for developing unit management plans. The unit management planning process considers local conditions and community participation to craft goals and objectives for a "unit" or small group of state lands.

In 2008, New York State forests were certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Certification is an independent assessment of forest management based on standards established by the certification organization. FSC and SFI established forest management standards for the long-term ecological, social, and economic

Unemployed people were put to work during the 1930s replanting state lands in NY to trees. Of course, the land belonged to the state mostly because it had been abandoned as poorly sited farms failed.



DEC files

health of State Forests. Timber production, along with the processing and distribution of wood products, is often the focus of certification systems. Lumber, paper, and other forest products with certification labels provide consumers with assurances that they originated from well-managed forests. State forest certification demonstrates DEC's commitment to sustainable forestry and to advancing practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Timber production on State Forests is guided by the practice of silviculture. Students of forestry will recognize silviculture as both the art and science of establishing and growing healthy forests to meet the needs of people. While harvesting trees generates a marketable product, growing a healthy forest *and* generating a marketable product requires applied silviculture. Optimizing levels of sunlight, species diversity, and density of trees necessary for healthy growth and regeneration is accomplished by cutting trees. Red pine management on State Forests provides one example of tree cutting to promote forest regeneration. Red pine plantations established by the CCC, particularly those planted on poorly drained sites, are clearcut with all overstory trees removed. The outcome of clearcutting is often dramatic, but it generates a merchantable product and, more importantly, releases sugar maple, black cherry, and other native trees that would otherwise wither and die in the shade of the red pine.

In many parts of Central New York, State Forests occupy relatively large parcels of land under single ownership. These parcels, ranging in size from one to ten thousand acres, provide opportunities for habitat management not possible on smaller, private lands. State Forests provide habitat for thousands of wildlife species from the smallest microbes feeding on leaf litter to much larger mammals roaming many square miles in search of prey. Wildlife are critically important to healthy forests. Managing habitat conditions can favor beneficial species while discouraging destructive ones. For example, uneven-aged stand conditions, consisting of young, developing, and mature trees on the same site, will create a multi-tiered forest canopy. This structure optimizes sustained timber production while providing habitat for birds occupying different canopy levels. These same birds are checks on insect populations that feed on trees. Tree cutting to control forest structure can sustain timber production and at the same time enhance wildlife habitat conditions.

In 2016, New York's forest economy generated \$13.1 billion in direct output. Forestry provides more than 40,000 jobs and \$2.5 billion in direct labor income. DEC manages an active timber sale program with revenues re-invested in State forests for access projects, habitat improvement, and to generate funds necessary for local property taxes. Investments made in the 1930s are paying dividends today. Conifer trees planted on State Forests by the CCC are harvested to produce dimension lumber, utility poles, and cabin logs. Sugar maple, black cherry, and other native species produce high quality hardwood lumber used for furniture, flooring, and musical instruments. Local hardwood



Greg Owens

Harvesting white pine and spruce planted by the CCC in the 1930s.



Greg Owens

Young forest regeneration with varied trees, in what had been a mono-culture red pine plantation. The stumps in the foreground are red pine.

lumber is a global commodity that has positioned Central New York as an important producer of sustainable and renewable woods products.

State Forests provide countless environmental, social, and economic benefits to the people of New York. Next time you encounter harvesting on State Forests, we hope you appreciate this important contribution to wildlife habitat, economic development, and to sustaining forest growth and regeneration to create a healthier forest ecosystem.

Further Reading

Taylor, Alan 1995. "The Great Change Begins: Settling the Forests of Central New York". *New York History*. Vol. 76, No. 3: pp 265-290
 Patton, Thomas A. 1994. "Forestry and Politics: Franklin D. Roosevelt as Governor of New York". *New York History*. Vol. 75, No. 4: pp. 397-418

NYSDEC. 2011. Strategic Plan for State Forest Management. Albany, NY available at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/spsfmfinal.pdf 🍁

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

There is a register within view of the Rock City shelter. If you had been paying attention, this shed antler could have been yours! Photo by Mark Valites

