

December 2013



Tie Up Your Laces  
And...Work!

#### Points to ponder:

- Report your hours and help us get more money to improve trail!!!
- Why use *specialty* flagging tape to mark even small reroutes?

#### News Items

The FLTC's **Trail Management Council** will hold its annual meeting on **APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> 2014, from 10-3**, at the First Congregational-United Church of Christ, 58 North Main St. (NY 332) in Canandaigua. This event is primarily for sponsoring club members and other volunteers who play leadership roles in managing trails in the FLT System; but any volunteer or landowner interested in doing more work for the trail is welcome. Discussion will focus on: issues raised at the Fall Trail Management meetings; new systems for reporting and posting trail notices on maps and the website; status of DEC Volunteer Stewardship Agreements; inventorying facilities; and training and information needs of sponsors.

Check out the **NCTA Field Grant application** at: [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org) → Members → Volunteer Resources → Grant Applications.... Grants are for up to \$1000 and may be applied to Trail or Facility Construction, Promotion or Recruitment, Volunteer Training, Trail Maintenance, and Public Events associated with the 430 mi of NCNST coincident with the main FLT and the Onondaga Br. Email Lynda ([ljrassoc@roadrunner.com](mailto:ljrassoc@roadrunner.com)) before submitting an application and for help preparing your brief case statement. Apply before March 1, 2014.

# TRAIL TENDERS' NEWS

*A publication from the Trail Quality Training Team*

## Finger Lakes Trail Conference

#### Greetings Volunteers,

It's that time of year again to submit our volunteer hours for the 2013 census. We are using the same on-line form that was well-received last year. The annual submission of our hours is **very** important. It documents to NYS public land managers, the North Country Trail Assoc., the Nat'l Park Service, our auditors, and potential funders the volunteer time and effort we have put forth to maintain a foot trail across New York State. **Thank you** in advance for submitting your volunteer hours by **January 31, 2014** using the census form that can be **accessed on the FLTC website at: Home>Members>Volunteer Trail Workers, or at**

<http://www.flconference.org/trail/members1/volunteer-trail-workers/trail-council/census/>

#### Entries on the Form:

- **First Name, Last Name, E-mail address and Organization** (with a drop down menu listing various Trail Clubs, Scout Troops, etc.)
- **Position** (with a drop down menu listing roles such as Sponsor, Trail Club Chair, Regional Trail Coordinator, FLTC Board Member, FLTC Officer, Alley-Cat, TMT, Other, etc.)
- **Map** (with a drop down menu listing individual maps for Sponsors; groups of maps for Trail Clubs and Regional Trail Coordinators; and an FLT System-wide entry for others performing broad based work for the entire organization)
- **Hours** - three categories, each to include travel time and time spent on both private land and public land:
  1. **Trail Work** (maintenance and construction)
  2. **Administration** (planning, meetings, training, writing, editing, accounting, etc)
  3. **Interpretive** (outreach, promotion, education, leading hikes, etc.)
- **Public Land** (with a drop down menu listing various State Forests, Parks, etc.)
- **Hours for Public Land** - to include that portion of the total hours entered above that were spent on various public lands
- **Comments** - to note work accomplished, problems encountered, and proposed future projects; and to request mileage funds (\$1 per mile of trail maintained) and permanent facilities funds for misc. trail maintenance supplies

#### Important to Note:

- Group projects such as those performed by FLTC-organized work parties and Alley-Cat crews will be reported by the VP of Crews & Construction or the Project Manager.
- Stewards working for a Trail Club should not use this form. Stewards' hours should be reported by their Trail Club Chairs.
- The Public Land Hours in the lower section of the form are part of the total hours submitted in the first section of the form. They are **not** additional hours.

*Thank you!  
Steve*

**Steuben County maintainers: Please check your trail section(s) as early as you can, in advance of the 2014 Cross-County Hike Series if possible. The Series kicks off in late April !!!**

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**Appendix 4 Finger Lakes Trail Steward/Sponsor Guidelines**

Tools needed:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Small pruning shears      \_\_\_\_\_ Weed whip (triangular supports) or gas powered weed whacker
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hand bow saw (or other saw capable of cutting a 6" log)      \_\_\_\_\_ Access to a certified chainsaw operator
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paint kit for trail blazes (latex paint of correct color; 1" brush; small paint scraper; cut-away jug or other container to carry paint can & brush in, etc.)      \_\_\_\_\_ Small notebook for recording notes and observations

First maintenance visit: Mid-April to mid-May, after the snow has melted:

- Remove winter blowdown
- Weedwhack and side cut trail to usually 3 ft. wide. Corridor width may differ depending on terrain conditions or land-owner specifications; e.g., DEC Region 8 acceptable minimum width is 3 ft., so check local requirements.
- Clear overhead to 8 ft.
- Clean out water bars and drainage ditches
- Check blazes and signs
- Check for any logging activity near trail – notify Regional Coordinator or Trail Chair if found
- Check trail register and box – notify Coordinator or Trail Chair if repairs or replacements are needed
- Check trail, bridges, and shelters for winter damage – report uncorrected damage to Coordinator or Trail Chair

Second maintenance visit: June

- Remove blowdown
- Weed whack and side cut trail to widths per above
- Weed whack trailhead parking areas as needed
- Replace blazes and signs as needed
- Do minor bridge and shelter repair as needed
- Check for any logging activity near the trail – notify the Coordinator or Trail Chair if found
- Check trail register and box – notify Coordinator or Trail Chair if repairs or replacements are needed
- Assess trail conditions to see how quickly grass and weeds are growing; estimate what additional maintenance will be needed during the year

Subsequent maintenance visits, as needed:

- (same as above)

Landowner Relations Responsibilities:

- Personally meet your landowners and develop positive, friendly relationships with them. Always ask if they have any concerns or want you to do anything differently. If you are not able to do this, find someone who can.
- Carry copies of "Three Types of Permissions" to leave with landowners. Know NY's General Obligations Law.
- Watch for clues that they may have plans to sell or leave the land to offspring. If the opportunity arises, ask them to consider a trail easement, to keep the trail corridor beautiful and ensure the continuity of the trail. If a landowner is at least willing to learn about trail easements, contact the VP for Trail Preservation.

General Notes:

- No trail maintenance during big game hunting season!
- Respect landowner wishes and concerns.
- No motor vehicles on State land. With rare exceptions, the public is not allowed to ride bicycles, motorized bikes, horses, ATVs or snowmobiles on the trail, on private or public land. Be sure to learn the specific rules that apply to the trail section that you maintain; and remember, private landowners may ride bikes, ATVs or horses on the trail on their land (but try to discourage it diplomatically).
- Look for ways to improve the trail: Reroutes, corrections for wet areas, improvements to grade and outslope, etc.
- Do not cut fallen trees on State DEC land larger than 10" in diameter without DEC Forester's approval.

Originally prepared by Jim DeWan. Approved 02-25-06 by the Trail Management Committee, Finger Lakes Trail Conference. Revisions approved 02-24-08. L. Rummel, 02-24-08

Source: The FLTC's Field Maintenance Manual, p. 22 Available at [www.fingerlakestrail.org-->Members-->Trail Workers](http://www.fingerlakestrail.org-->Members-->Trail Workers).

## Regional Trail Coordinators, West to East

► Contact your RTC if you need the services of a certified sawyer. ► Coordinate your trail improvement ideas with your RTC. ► If you want reimbursement, obtain approval from your RTC and the FLTC VP-Trail Maintenance *before* you start.

Genesee West (M1-M6, CT1-CT12)  
Marty Howden  
[howser51@yahoo.com](mailto:howser51@yahoo.com) (585) 567-8589 H  
(585) 330-1872 C

Genesee East (M7-M11, L1 & L2)  
Ron Navik  
[ron.navik@frontiernet.net](mailto:ron.navik@frontiernet.net) (585) 377-1812

Watkins Glen-West (M12-M14, QCM/MFHLT)  
[ljrassoc@roadrunner.com](mailto:ljrassoc@roadrunner.com) (315) 536-9484 H  
(315) 679 2906 C Jan thru Mar only

Watkins Glen-East (M15-M19, I1)  
Paul Warrender  
[paul.warrender@yahoo.com](mailto:paul.warrender@yahoo.com) (401) 439-8285

Chenango-West (M20-M22 NY26, O1 & O2)  
Anthony Rodriguez  
[boricua1037@verizon.net](mailto:boricua1037@verizon.net) (315) 446-3586

Chenango-East (M22 NY26-M26 Bainbridge)  
Ed Sidote  
[esidote@frontiernet.net](mailto:esidote@frontiernet.net) (607) 334-3872

Catskill-West (M26 Bainbridge-M27)  
Don Sutherland  
[dsutherlandny@aim.com](mailto:dsutherlandny@aim.com) (607) 754-9573

Catskill-Central (M28-M30 NY206)  
Rick Roberts  
[hikerrick\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:hikerrick_2000@yahoo.com) (607) 746-9694  
(note underscore between hikerrick and 2000)

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Rick Roberts  
[hikerrick\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:hikerrick_2000@yahoo.com) (607) 746-9694  
(note underscore between hikerrick and 2000)

Bristol Hills Branch (B1-B3)  
Tom and Donna Noteware  
[noteware@empacc.net](mailto:noteware@empacc.net) (607) 868-4616

Crystal Hills Branch (C1-C3)  
Pat Monahan  
[pmonahan@stny.rr.com](mailto:pmonahan@stny.rr.com) (607) 936-8312

**For 2012, volunteers reported working 14,175 hours out on the trail, plus 8,542 related administrative hours, plus 1,541 interpretive hours, adding up to 24,257 hours, worth \$505,758 (hours x the 2012 NPS/NCTA hourly labor rate). Very impressive! THANK YOU!**

## Alert: In the Near Future, You Must Sign Up as a NYS DEC Volunteer

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### Fellow Volunteers,

We are in the process of entering into **new Volunteer Stewardship Agreements** with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in various DEC Regions across the state. Most of these agreements will become **effective by the beginning of 2014**, replacing the existing Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreements. These agreements, both old and new, allow the Finger Lakes Trail to exist in State Forests and Wild Forests, State Unique Areas, Wildlife Management Areas and Wilderness Areas. They specify what we can and can't do as volunteers while working on DEC lands, and they **ensure Liability and Workers' Compensation protection** for our maintainers while carrying out these duties.

As a condition of these new agreements, **all our maintainers who currently, or at some time in the future may, work on DEC lands must complete the state's Individual Volunteer Application** to ensure this Liability and Compensation coverage. Happily, applications will be good for the five year life of the agreement.

**This application will be sent to all maintainers through their Regional Trail Coordinators or Trail Club Chairs as the various Regions' agreements are renewed**, so there's not anything for you to fill out until you hear from your trail management.

While we hope to provide our RTC's and club Trail Chairs with clear information, just in case, here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- ❖ The application should be **completed and sent to the FLTC office** by email at: [fltcoffice@frontiernet.net](mailto:fltcoffice@frontiernet.net) (preferred), or by regular mail to: FLTC Inc., 6111 Visitor Center Road, Mt. Morris, NY 14510.
- ❖ Regarding the information required on the application:
  - Stewardship Agreement Number: enter **13-3,4,7,8,9** to cover all DEC Regions with which we will have an agreement.
  - Stewardship Agreement Name: enter **Finger Lakes Trail Conference**.
  - Parent/Guardian Permission: **make sure this section is completed** for anyone under 18 years of age.
  - Photocopy of Driver's License: is **not required** unless driving on NYSDEC access roads.
  - Initiated by: **do not sign here**; this will be completed in the FLTC office.

Many thanks,  
Steve

## A Cheap But Necessary Gift: Specialty Flagging Tape for the Maintainer and Hike Leader

Looking for a small but important gift to give the trail maintainer or hike leader in your life? Consider stuffing a few rolls of specialty pink/black striped or pink/black checkered flagging tape into his/her day pack. From Ben Meadows, \$2.75 per roll (or \$2.55 per roll if purchase box of 12). Perfect for marking "trail issues" the maintainer cannot take care of right away, such as a small relo around an obstacle or adding "blazes" to a remote stretch where blazes have worn thin. Easy for hikers to distinguish from tape used by surveyors and hunters.

Tie the knot on the side of the tree trunk you want the hiker to pass beside. To mark a sharp turn in the trail, hang two pieces from limbs, one above the other, or tie two strips around the tree's trunk with a knot in each direction. No mess and easy to use!



## Disks and Decals for the NCNST Part of the FLT

Carsonite posts, those lanky strips of brown compressed fiberglass, are supposed to be installed at trail heads and road crossings, and where the trail crosses other marked trails. The Carsonite posts with a pointed end can be pounded into the ground using a special pounding tool available from the FLTC "tool crib" at Mt. Morris (or possibly from a club Trails Chair). Having to pound the strip into our hard rocky soil has made even Steve Catherman cry, so we encourage you to pound in a heavy-weight green metal fence pole that you buy at your hardware store and attach the strip to that instead, using machine screws and lock nuts that you place through holes you pre-drill in the strip at locations that correspond to the holes in the pole. Or, easier yet, nail the strip to a wooden fence post or a tree (*if/only if the land-owner permits*) that's near enough to still inform users before they start on the trail. (If you nail it, leave 1/4-1/2" out, so you can pull out the nail as the tree grows.)

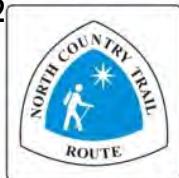
At the moment, there are two NCNST decals that you can use on the Carsonite posts. Decal #1 is for trail that is certified; decal #2 is for trail that is part of the NCNST/ FLT but is not yet certified and won't get certified for a while or is unlikely ever to be certified. If you do not know whether a segment is certified, check a current FLTC map. Certified segments are between (within) the NCT → ← NCT indicators.



#1

The decal at left (#1) is intended for certified trail. The segment has been accepted by the National Park Service as being only for foot travel and meeting certain basic tread, corridor, signage and blazing standards. You can also get this

decal as a disk, to mark the trail every half mile or so. The image is of the North Star shining brightly and is quite impressive. Remember to use aluminum nails or screws and have permission from the landowner before putting up disks.



#2

The decal at the right (#2) is for use when the segment is not or is not likely to ever be cer-

## Disks and Decals for the NCNST Part of the FLT, continued

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tified. Unfortunately it is not as eye-catching as the certified segment decal is, but it does show that the trail user is still on the official route of the NCNST, even though it's not certified. In the jargon, this is called a "reassurance mark" because its job is to reassure the hiker that he/she is on the right trail. If/when the segment becomes certified, you can always stick the correct decal over the other one.

### Just Disks, No Decals

If you want to mark a road-walk or a short section of pre-existing multiple use trail that we use (e.g., a snowmobile trail that skirts a logging area) but which we would hope to swap for a single-tread foot-travel-only section if we ever get the time and money to do so, there's yet another, different disk to use. This modest disk, #3 below left, says "Temporary Connector" along the bottom where Disk #2 says "Route" (sorry if the reproduced image is not readable). The point is, obviously, that this is temporary, although what's actually temporary can drag out for years, until land-owners change, we change the route of the trail, or we get the money to build that bridge you've been dying to build.



#3

Don't forget the NCNST route also can be marked with an official NYS DEC disk

wherever it passes through NY State Forests. This can be nailed up along the route of the FLT/NCNST, certified or not; but since the disk says "Foot Trail," do not use it on multiple-use trail that the FLT/NCNST is using. You can, however, use it on a reroute after the reroute has been approved by the DEC.



#4

Disks, decals, and Carsonite posts are available from the FLTC Office. Contact [FLTinfo@fingerlakestrail.org](mailto:FLTinfo@fingerlakestrail.org).

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To:

Trail Census & DEC Vol  
Agreement Info

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