

December 2018

TRAIL TENDERS' NEWS

A publication from the Trail Quality Training Team



**Tie Up
Your
Laces**

And Work!

Points to ponder (yes, again...):

- **I'm just a maintainer. Why should I volunteer at the International Trails Symposium?** (Hint: the list of freebies on p. 2 includes free entrance on the day(s) you volunteer...!)
- **I'm really just a hiker. Why should I get involved in advocating for hiking trails, and how do I do it?** (Hint: Check out the topics for many of the sessions at the April ITS)
- **As a trail maintainer, I understand the health benefits of a hiking trail to my community. How can I promote these with others?** (Hint: Ditto.)

Trail Council Meeting Cancelled for 2019 Will Be (Re)Scheduled for 2020

The months of April and May, 2019, are turning out to be filled with trail projects, training sessions, and the International Trails Symposium at which the FLTC hopes to have an impressive presence. The Symposium will be attended by many of our agency partners, some of whom will be involved with activities or presentations, right on the heels of two months of hectic spring activity. So, because these two months are jam-packed, we have cancelled the Trail Council meeting for this year. We will plan on hosting it next year, again in April, in Canandaigua or the Cortland area, where the DEC has offered to help us find a location. We regret losing the opportunity to network this year but hope to meet up with all of you at the Symposium.

International Trails Symposium

If you have not volunteered to help with our activities at the Symposium, please consider doing so. **Don't miss this chance to learn a lot more about recreational trails.** Much more info on p. 2 of this newsletter.

Finger Lakes Trail Conference

To: All Trail Maintainers

From: Scott Brooks, FLTC Board Member, Volunteer Census Chief Enforcer

It's time, again, to submit our volunteer hours for the annual census. We are using the same on-line form as we've now used for the last four years. Submitting the amount of time you've worked for the trail is **very** important. The total tells federal, state, and county officials, NYS public land managers, the North Country Trail Association, the National Park Service, our members, auditors, donors, potential funders, and the public the huge amount of volunteer time and effort we have expended to maintain this foot trail across New York State. And it helps us get grants and keep the trail for foot-travel only. **Please do not under-report your hours!** **Thank you** in advance for submitting your volunteer hours by **January 31, 2019** using the census form that can be accessed on the **FLTC website at: Home>Members>Volunteer Trail Workers**, or at <https://fingerlakestrail.org/members/volunteer-trail-work/2018-volunteer-hours-census/>

The Entries on the Form are as follows:

- **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 various roles such as Sponsor, Trail Club Chair, Regional Trail Coordinator, FLTC Board Member, FLTC Officer, Alley-Cat, Trail Management Team, Other)
- **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 - five categories**, each to include both travel time and work time spent on both private and public land. The categories:
 1. **Trail Work** (maintenance and construction)
 2. **Administration** (meetings, office work, writing, editing, accounting, etc)
 3. **Interpretation & Outreach** (promotion, education, leading hikes, brochure development, car shuttling, etc.)
 4. **General Resource Work** (GIS/GPS work, mapping, planning, land protection/acquisition)
 5. **Training** (construction, maintenance, safety, sawyer, 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 and permanent facilities funds for miscellaneous trail maintenance supplies.

Additional Important Info:

- **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 (or "adopters") working for a Trail Club or affiliate organization 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.**

ATTENTION Chenango County Maintainers! Please tend to your trail section well in advance of this season's Cross County Hike Series. The series kicks off April 20th

International Trails Symposium

April 26-May 1, 2019

At the Oncenter Convention Center, Syracuse, NY

First, and closest to the heart: The **benefits** of volunteering at the Symposium include **the following amazing feebies** --

- Free T-Shirt with Symposium logo and "Trail Boss" written on the back
- Free attendee bag with goodies and trail swag
- Free ticket to the Trails Rock Party at the Museum of Science & Technology, Monday, April 28, 2019, 7pm-11pm (includes meal, no-host bar, live band, live auction)
- **Free attendance to concurrent sessions on the day(s) you volunteered**
- **Free admission to exhibit hall to see latest technologies and advancements in trails**
- Complimentary volunteer refreshment/snack area

Of course, the Symposium will not focus on just hiking trails. From our skinny footpath to wide and hardened multiple use trails, trails of all sorts will be covered by representatives from every user group from around the world, giving us the opportunity to learn from what others are doing. The agenda includes may events and activities *that should interest club and FLTC Board members, health professionals, tourism industry reps, community planners, administrators, and trustees, conservationists and land managers, and everyday hikers, as well as us trail maintainers and regional trail coordinators.* Here is a sampling of topics that interested me:

All-day and mobile workshops

- "[PTBA*] Backcountry Rigging Techniques,"
- "Foot Trail Construction via National Scenic Trail Criteria,"
- "Independent Stewardship...a Basic Course for Trail Adopters,"
- "Lean-to Construction on the Finger Lakes Trail"

Breakfast with an Expert Talks

- "Closing Stubborn Trail Gaps East and West,"
- "Beyond the Day Hike: Hut-to-Hut Tourism on America's Trails,"
- "Creating Sustainable Internship Programs"

*Note: PTBA = A course by leaders of the Professional Trail Builders Association offering learning credits.

Continued at right

ITS, Syracuse, April 26-May 1, *continued*

Breakout Sessions

- "Planning for Equitable Trail Networks,"
- "...Trail Towns: Capturing Trail Based Tourism,"
- "Connecting Communities: Transportation and Recreation Networks,"
- "Launching Florida's Trail Town Program,"
- "[PTBA] New Strategies in Natural Surface Trail Planning,"
- "An Empire State of Trails: Creating New Trails and Connecting Existing Networks,"
- "21st Century Way to Attract Trail Users: On-Line Trail Finder,"
- "Getting State Legislators Excited About Trails: Caucuses and 'Active' Advocacy,"

This is just a small sample of the many planned workshops, expert talks, panel discussions, and breakout sessions. And we haven't even mentioned the keynote presentations or The Big Party!

- "The Healing Power of Nature..."
- "Advancing Trail Stewardship: Developing Sustainable Volunteer Programs,"
- "Sustainable Composite Bridges/Should We Still Use Wood"
- "All Trails Lead to Beer"
- "Impact of Trails on the Health and Well-Being of Individuals and Communities,"
- "Trail Management by the [NYS] DEC"

Forums

- "Engaging the Health Community"
- "Trail Management and Maintenance"

At the Symposium, FLTC, ADK, and NCTA volunteers and staff will serve on panels, erect two different styles of lean-to's by the entrance, and demonstrate "Gold Star" trail standards on the FLT/NCNST in Highland Forest as one of many "mobile workshops." **To help with our activities, please contact Quinn at qwright@fingerlakestrail.org.**

Other volunteer opportunities are available. Check out: www.americantrails.org/symposium/volunteer-at-its-2019.

To see the full agenda, go to americantrails.org and search for the International Trails Symposium 2019. **Don't miss this great learning opportunity.**

How to Deal With Big Downed Trees Across the Trail

► “Do It Yourself” -- Use a Cross Cut Saw:

A little patience and a bit of practice are required to use a cross cut saw, but as long as you remember that each of you pulls only – no pushing! – in an alternating rhythm, you’ll figure it out. Watch that you don’t get the saw pinched – plan ahead whether you’re going to start or finish on the top of the trunk. If you do get pinched, cut out the saw blade using the smaller trimming or bow saw you usually carry with you. Cross cut saws are available in the east from the ADK-Onondaga Chapter -- contact Ed O’Shea at eoshea001@twcny.rr.com; in the central area, from Paul Good at pag0547@aol.com; and a bit further west, from the FLTC tool shed at Mt. Morris -- contact ericac@fingerlakestrail.org.

► **Contact a Certified Sawyer:** All persons who complete the FLTC’s course promise to work outside of their home area when asked and when they are able. This means that many certified sawyers are actually available to you. How do you find one? Contact your RTC or club trails chair, who will then help you find a certified sawyer who can take care of the problem, or feel free to contact a sawyer(s) yourself. Marty Howser and I keep records (of course!) that show who is currently certified, and my records show who is near/in what community around the state. These allow you to contact certified sawyers who are near you or the section of trail you maintain. [Here’s an example:](#)

Name	Certification	Address	Contact Info
Marshall, Stephen	4/25/15; 5/20/18	7884 Gulick Rd., Naples	tinmannibbs@frontiernet.net
Darling, Jeff	5/2/10; 5/6/18	851 Gravel Rd., Webster N.Rochester	Darling@websterschools.org

Highlighted above are two important elements – the date the sawyer was most recently certified, and the general area where the certified sawyer lives. These pieces of information tell you whether the sawyer is current and how close the sawyer lives to you. If you would like the list of individuals who have been certified, shoot me an email at ljrassoc@roadrunner.com. The list of RTC’s will be published in the April 2019 *TTN*; however, if you’d like the list before then, shoot me an email at ljrassoc@roadrunner.com.

Editor/Lead Writer – Lynda Rummel (ljrassoc@roadrunner.com); Conscripted Contributors/Trainers: Steve Catherman; Bill Coffin; Mary Coffin; Marty Howden; Dave Newman; Mike Schlicht; Irene Szabo

2019 Chainsaw Certification Courses Scheduled for May 5 & 6 and May 19 & 20.


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By FLTC policy, sawyer certification is required for anyone who wants to use a chainsaw on **any part of the Finger Lakes Trail System**. Certification is also required by state and federal land managing agencies and the National Park Service. Recertification is required every three years.

The FLTC provides this course FREE to any current or aspiring FLT trail maintainer or work crew member or NCNST trail volunteer. However, every participant **MUST** be an FLTC member or work for one of our land managing agency partners. Please be current with your CPR/First Aid certifications. (Note: If you’ve taken CPR/First Aid from a real, live instructor, you may update your certifications using online courses. **If** funding is available, you may get reimbursed for your CPR/First Aid courses.)

Regional Trail Coordinators, club trail chairs, and sponsors may contact anyone who is currently certified. 120 individuals have gone through this course thus far. Many are still working on the FLT System, but some have moved away or retired, so we welcome newbies as well as recertifiers. Individuals who complete the course must promise to work outside their home area *if asked and when they can*. We hope sawyers will respond as often as they can; however, they can choose whether to do so.

An excellent course; a fantastic instructor. Men and women, old and young, have become certified, so if you’re reluctant to take this course, please think again. Or, if you just want to work as a sawyer “swamper” (helper), please consider taking this course. Our “Game of Logging” instructor (Bill Lindloff) tailors the course to our needs as trail workers who must deal more with blow downs and ice storm and micro-burst damage than with felling healthy trees. 8 a.m. – 4+ p.m. daily. Location: Birdseye Hollow SF/County Park (FLTC map M 12), 10 min. east of Hammondsport. Spacious scout house in Hammondsport *likely* available for overnighing & light cooking. To sign up for the course, you must contact Marty at howser51@yahoo.com or 585-567-8589. Expect to bring your own chainsaw and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including UL-certified chaps or pants, helmet and ear, eye and face protection, and protective foot wear. Tell Marty if you need PPE.



Volunteer Hours Reported for 2017:

24,540

Multiplied by the *federal* volunteer rate of \$23.56 = **\$578,162 worth of labor donated to the FLT System.**

Total includes 10,114 hours of trail work, 9,900 administrative hours, 2,479 interpretive hours, 1,751 hours of general resource work (mostly mapping & easements), and 297 hours of training. Awesome! The total is **5,108 hours more** than reported for 2016, and ~3,000 more hours than we’ve reported at any time in the preceding five years. Alas, for those of us who prefer to work outdoors..., the increase was due to “administrative work,” almost entirely, and much of that was dealing with trail condition reports and an increase in hunting closures.

2018
Winner
Bigfoot Prize
for
Grunt Labor

“Small” Stocking Stuffers...for Trail Maintainers

Usually this column is reserved for “small stocking stuffers” in advance of the holidays. This time, however, please think big, *really* big. If you could have access to just one tool or piece of equipment with which to take care of your section of trail or create a new one, what would you ask Santa for? Seriously, **we need your help** identifying the tools and machinery that would help you take better care of the trail or inspire you to build better causeways, drainage ditches, or bridge, for a grant app we’re writing. And while Santa won’t likely deliver these toys to your house, Santa will find ways to make them available; so be sure to include the proper sized trailer if such is needed for that gold plated trenching tool you’ve been lusting after. **Send your dreams to the FLTC Fulfillment Center at ljrassoc@roadrunner.com.**

On the list *thus far*:



Left: DR Mowers – Hand-driven, maneuverable brush-hog that can quickly put a clump of multiflora roses in its place. Uses: To clear or mow trail corridor. Newer models can be operated by smaller sized folks pretty easily. Can be stowed in a covered tool trailer and towed behind a sedan. Replacing several old mowers.



Lower Left: 2019 Yamaha Kodiak 700 Utility ATV. Uses: To haul FLTC narrow Nova Jack trailer and/or materials & tools for lean-to’s, bridges, major tread construction projects, etc. Replacing a very tired, beat-up ATV.

continued



Left: Bobcat 1418 Compact Excavator, for grading & trenching. Rubberized treads minimize impact on trail tread.

Bottom: Kioti CS2510 Sub Compact Tractor, with bucket, back-hoe, & rear-attach rotary cutter, for trenching, moving dirt, and digging post holes. Smallest model available. Backhoe arm can carry & place drainage pipe. With a sturdy 16’ trailer, either can be towed behind a ¾ ton pick-up truck. Uses: Drainage construction, site preparation,



To:

**The Incredible Internat'l Trails Symposium
& Trail Census Info**
Finger Lakes Trail Conference
6111 Visitor Center Road
Mt. Morris, NY 14510