

April 2019



Tie Up
Your
Laces...

And Work!

TRAIL TENDERS' NEWS

A publication from the Trail Quality Training Team

Points to ponder:

- Of all the volunteer opportunities related to the International Trails Symposium, which really, really need volunteers?
- What are some techniques for communicating with landowners?
- This year's cross-county hike series is going to be across what county?

Trail Council Meeting Cancelled – Please Volunteer at ITS Instead!

The annual **Trail Council** meeting has been cancelled this year so that FLTC volunteers may attend the **International Trails Symposium** that will be held at the Syracuse OnCenter April 25-May 1. Tickets are expensive; but if you volunteer, you may attend other workshops or presentations offered that day, **for free**. Contact Mike Schlicht at 716-316-4388 or pageazi@yahoo.com to volunteer for facility building activities **at right**; Mike TenKate, at mike_tenkate@yahoo.com, to volunteer to disassemble the boardwalk at the On-Center and un-load it in Virgil (p. 2); and Deb Nero at dn13@cornell.edu to volunteer for other activities at the OnCenter.

More Alley Cat Crew Opportunities

M3, Reassemble Little Rock City Lean-to *on site*; M 22?, Reassemble Bucks Brook Lean-to—*site tbd*; M18, Reroute Blue Spur to Coddington Rd.; M13, Build Switchbacks, So. Bradford SF; M12, Rebuild Bridge, Pleasant Valley; O1 & O2, Improve Trail. Contact Mike Schlicht, at 716-316-4388 or pageazi@yahoo.com

Attention Chenango County Trail Maintainers! It's Time for Spring Cleaning!

Please tend to your trail sections as soon as possible.
This Year's Cross-County Hike Series Kicks Off April 20th!

There will be six hikes (April thru September) with each being held the THIRD Saturday of each month...each hike will cover approximately 12 miles, but (new this year) there will also be an opportunity to do half the hike on Saturday and the other half the next day. So, Sponsors, I guess I can say you have your work cut out for you, and, alas, your work has just begun. Thank you for all the maintenance work that you do. P.S. To find out the details of the hike series, visit:

<https://fingerlakestrail.org/whats-happening/hiking-programs/cross-county-hike-series/>

Internat'l Trails Symposium Alley Cat Facility (De)Construction Opportunities By Mike Schlicht, Director of Crews & Construction

April 25th – Syracuse, NY - 8 AM – Mike TenKate will be dropping off the Bucks Brook lean-to, the base for the Little Rock City lean-to and privy screens at the OnCenter. We will start re-constructing the Bucks Brook lean-to, the base for the Little Rock City lean-to and the privy screens at that time. We have permission to drive right onto the floor of the OnCenter to the spot where our display will be that will make our work very easy; however, permits may be necessary to be on the premises **so it is important to let me know** if you will be volunteering for any of the setup and take down events at the OnCenter. Please note: No outside food or drink is permitted within the OnCenter. Contact me at pageazi@yahoo.com if you want to volunteer.

April 26th – Syracuse, NY -- Continue reconstruction of lean-to's if needed

April 27th – Syracuse, NY – Rob Hughes will be dropping off the Little Rock City lean-to on the 27th at 8am will also need assistance with reconstruction. This will be a unique experience as Rob incorporates a new framing design that you may want to learn.

April 28th – Syracuse, NY -- Time TBA – Boardwalk Set Up -- We will assist the representatives from Wickcraft setting up the boardwalk that is being donated to the FLTC. Each section weighs 400lbs and the poles for each section are close to 200lbs. We will have a forklift assisting us, but some parts may require lifting or shifting to align the sections. **See p. 2 for deconstruction info.**

May 1- Syracuse, NY 11 AM SHARP – Lean-To Deconstruction - The symposium at the OnCenter concludes at 11 AM on May 1st and all vendors have until 7 pm to disassemble and load their displays. We must disassemble two lean-to's, privy screens and related items. We will need a number of volunteers to assist in carting these items to the loading dock as we are not likely to be able to drive our vehicles to our displays. The loading of the lean-to's is also going to be somewhat complex as project managers Dave Potzler and Tony Rodriguez will have to wait for us to complete deconstruction and obtain a window to bring their trailers in for loading.

Continued on p. 2 top left

Boardwalk Deconstruction

Mike TenKate

May 1 – OnCenter, Syracuse, NY – Time TBA – We will be renting a forklift and driver to help disassemble the boardwalk that Wickcraft is donating to the FLTC. While this will simplify the process, some heavy lifting and/or shifting will be necessary. At this time, we cannot estimate when deconstruction will start and end. Time slots are being assigned to vendors for the loading dock and we do not know at this time when we will have sufficient clearance from the location of the boardwalk for the forklift to pass by existing vendor displays. Once these details have been identified, an email will be sent out to volunteers and to the FLTC email list for a call to assist. Some heavy lifting will likely be necessary to load the boardwalk onto the trailer taking it for storage in Virgil, NY.

May 1- Virgil, NY - Mike TenKate will also need assistance unloading the trailer in Virgil, NY with the 8 sections of boardwalk and associated materials. Heavy lifting will be necessary. To help, please contact Mike TenKate at: mike_tenkate@yahoo.com

Trail Sponsors Encouraged to Communicate with Landowners

You may have wondered why those who have responsibility for maintaining a segment (however long) of trail in the FLT System are called sponsors officially, rather than stewards or maintainers. My understanding is that the word 'sponsor' was chosen over the other two words because 'maintainer' can imply simply keeping existing trail cleared and blazed and that's all, while 'steward' can imply caring for the broader lands and grounds as well as the existing trail, and neither of these terms fits a trail system that is, in effect, a guest on lands not only managed by several different agencies but also owned by over 600 landowners with whom the FLTC most likely has only a "handshake agreement" permitting the trail to be on the property. 'Sponsor' implies standing behind the trail and promoting it, like one would when *sponsoring* an event. And this implies actively working to establish good and open communication with landowners so they will continue to let the trail stay on their lands and will know that their generosity is deeply appreciated.

This may seem to be above and beyond the call of duty, or at least above your pay grade as a trail "maintainer," but one of the main tasks for trail *sponsors* (which is what we all are) is to get to know our landowners, help them resolve any issues they have with the trail, and thank them for hosting the trail and sharing their lands with others. They are providing a great service to their friends and neighbors, and to visitors and tourists, too -- all of whom need a way to get outside and stretch their legs in an increasingly mechanized world. And our landowners need to know that all who use the trail are extremely grateful for their thoughtful consideration.

If you are a shy person like I am, reaching out to your landowners can seem to be a daunting task. But with any luck

Continued at right

Communicate! (please), continued *April 2019*

you may have been introduced to the landowner(s) by the sponsor who preceded you. However, if you weren't, get the names of your landowners from your RTC and, if they live on the property or anywhere near you, stop by and see them. Hint: If the landowner is farming the land, stop by at lunch time. And you can always call ahead to ask when a good time to stop by would be. Before contacting them, be sure to talk with your RTC, whom you can always ask to go along with you.

Some of our sponsoring clubs and individuals have done an excellent job of relating to their landowners. **Here are some ideas from them that may help you with this vitally important job:**

If the segment sponsor is a club or group such as a scout troop and you are in a leadership position, consider establishing a "landowner relations committee" to organize contact with the landowners for the stretch you oversee. Alternatively, identify a couple of volunteers who will work together to organize the contact, so that at least some elements of it are done regularly year after year and some folks will assure that it gets done.

If you are an individual sponsor, create a 1-page summary of the work you've done on the trail over the season and mail it to them with holiday best wishes. Be sure to explain how important it's been to you to have responsibility for the section and how much you have appreciated getting out on the trail on their land. Include a picture of yourself, with or without comrades, working on the trail or holding tools.

Attn RTC's: see if you can't help the individual trail sponsors in your region by coordinating the development of a flyer or folded card that shows pictures of your sponsors working, hikers enjoying the trail, or work that has been done in your region. Arrange to take your sponsor(s) on visits. And if you can't visit, see if you can't call them once or twice a year. Whenever you talk with them, be sure to find out if there are any problems and ask whether they'd be willing to be profiled in the *FLT News* and whether they are even getting the *FLT News*.

2018 Chainsaw Certification Courses Scheduled for May 5 & 6 and May 19 & 20.

The FLTC provides this course free to current or wannabe FLT trail maintainers or trail crew members and agency personnel. The course is taught by Bill Lindloff, a Game of Logging star instructor who has tailored the course to the typical situations faced by trail maintainers. Location: Birdseye Hollow State Forest, 10 min. east of Hammondsport. Scout house in Hammondsport likely available for overnighting. Basic First Aid and CPR must be current. For further information or to sign up for the course, contact Marty Howden at howser51@yahoo.com.

HOW AND WHEN TO REPORT CHANGES IN LANDOWNER INFORMATION

By Dave Newman, VP-Trail Preservation

The Office maintains a master landowner database that lists all parcels that the trail crosses.

In order to make sure that the database is current and accurate, Regional Trail Coordinators and/or section Sponsors should notify *the Office* whenever they have asked the mapping team to change the trail's route or whenever they find out that there has been a change in landowner(s). **PLEASE NOTE: The mapping team does not provide landowner updates to the office, so Regional Trail Coordinators must remember to do this.**

Information should be sent to Erica Cole, FLTC, 6111 Visitor Center Rd., Mt. Morris, NY 14510, or ericac@fingerlakestrail.org.

In the database, all properties are identified by these three pieces of information:

County: _____
 Township: _____
 Property Tax ID Number _____

Of course, we also record owner information, but owners change over time. The property location as defined by the Tax ID Number remains constant.*

When you send landowner information to the office, please address the following questions:

1. Is the trail being REMOVED from one or more properties? So that we can remove all of them from the landowner database, please list EACH property that it will no longer cross, preferably by Tax ID number. If you don't know the tax parcel ID, include exact details as to where the property is located, perhaps even a marked up copy of a map.
2. Were we asked to close the trail? Of course, we need to remove the landowner who asked us to leave. But we also need you to identify if there are other properties where we may still have permission, but the trail won't go there anymore. We need to remove those landowners too.
3. Is the trail being ADDED to a new property? We need

County, Township, Tax ID or specific map information to identify the particular parcel, owner, owner mailing address (may be different than the property address), and if you have it owner email and phone information.

4. Is the trail still allowed, but the owner has changed? We need the County, Township, Tax ID Number and the new owner, owner mailing address, and email and phone information. It will also help if you can be specific about who was the old owner, to be removed.

* Note: Occasionally a trail parcel will be subdivided. When that happens the first portions of the Tax Parcel ID Number remain the same but the portion after the final decimal point may change. For example, 262.-1-10.2 may become 262.-1-10.21 and 262.-1-10.22 and there will no longer be a 262.-1-10.2 in the official land records. This can cause the need to identify which parcel the trail remains on.

Original Date: 4/11/2015 Revised Email Address for Change Notifications: 2/20/2019. Revised text & format, 2/21/2019 LJR

The Most Significant Job in Trail Management?

If you'd like to make a *really* meaningful contribution to the Finger Lakes Trail System without having to work your bottom off, take the job of VP for Trail Maintenance. You report directly to the President, serve on the FLTC's Executive Committee, and work with a really great group of colleagues, (other trail management vice presidents and directors), as part of the Trail Management Team. As VP-Trail Maintenance, your primary responsibility is to oversee the group of 15 individuals who serve as volunteer FLT Regional Trail Coordinators (RTCs) and the network of Sponsors (clubs or individuals) who work in their regions. Many tasks formerly associated with this position have been shifted to other volunteers, so your job is just to make sure the system of Sponsors and RTC's keeps running and running well. To volunteer for this position, contact Wendy Stevenson, Nominating Committee Chair, at wsteven@frontiernet.net

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Regional Trail Coordinators, West to East:

Far West (M1-M4, CT 1-CT 12)
Jeanne Moog
jeamoog@aol.com (716) 652-6190 H
(716) 445-3179 C
And Don Bergman
donbergman@roadrunner.com (716) 625-8746

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

Genesee East (M7-M11)
Peter Wybron
prwybron@rochester.rr.com (585)243-5351

Watkins Glen-West (M12-M14, QCMT, MFHLT)
Lynda Rummel
ljrassoc@roadrunner.com (315) 536-9484 H
(315) 679-2906 C Jan thru Mar only

Watkins Glen-East (M15-M19, I1 FLNF)
Dave Priester
607hikingtrails@gmail.com (607) 274-1176 H
(401) 439-8285 C

Chenango-West (M19 Tone Rd.- M21 Elwood/Potter Hill Cem. Rd.)
(Southern Cortland Co.)
Peter Dady
dady@toast.net (315-729-4322)
AND
Chenango-West (M21 Elwood/Potter Hill Cemetery Rd. – M22 NY
26) & Onondaga Trail (O1-O2)
Anthony Rodriguez
boricua1037@verizon.net (315) 446-3586

RTC's, continued:

April 2019 4

Chenango-East (M22 NY26-M24 Bowman Lk. SP)
Tom Bryden
snbdodger@yahoo.com (607) 859-2225
AND
Chenango-East (M24 Bowman Lk. SP-M26 Bainbridge)
Roy Dando
rdando@frontier.com (607) 785-3141

Catskill-West (M26 Bainbridge-M27)
Donald Sutherland
dsutherlandny@aim.com (607) 754-9573

Catskill-Central (M28-M30 NY206)
Rick Roberts
hikerrick2000@yahoo.com (607) 746-9694

Catskill East (M30 NY206-M33)
Rick Roberts
hikerrick2000@yahoo.com (607) 746-9694

Letchworth Branch (L1 & L2)
Irene Szabo
treeweenie@aol.com (585) 658-4321

Bristol Hills Branch (B1-B3)
Donna Noteware
noteware@empacc.net (607) 868-4614

Crystal Hills Branch (CH1-CH3)
Pat Monahan
pmonahan@stny.rr.com (607) 368-0847

To obtain a list of currently certified sawyers near you, contact
Lynda at ljrassoc@roadrunner.com.

To:
Landowner Relations,
RTC Contact Info & ...
Volunteers Needed!

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