

December 2019

# TRAIL TENDERS' NEWS

*A publication from the Trail Quality Training Team*



**Tie Up  
Your  
Laces**

## And Work!

### Points to ponder:

- Why should I bother to report ALL my FLTC-related hours?
- I'm reading this because my trail-maintaining friend made me. Why should I read more of this rag?
- How can a boot brush station stop the spread of jumping worms? Worms don't jump and if they did, they'd just jump off my boots anyway!

### Trail Council Meeting To Be Held This Coming Spring

The FLTC's annual Trail Council meeting will be held again this coming spring, probably in late April or early May. We hope that the meeting will be at the usual location (the First Congregational-United Church of Christ, 58 North Main Street [NY 332] in Canandaigua) at the usual time (10-2), but will confirm the date & place after the first of the year.

This meeting is primarily for our volunteers and partners who play leadership roles in managing trails in the FLT System – e.g., Trail Club Chairs, Regional Trail Coordinators, Trail Mgt. Team members, NCTA HQ staff or volunteers, and public agency central and regional reps -- but anyone interested in trail management is welcome to attend. The agenda has not been set yet, so **contact Lynda** at [ljrassoc@roadrunner.com](mailto:ljrassoc@roadrunner.com) if you have suggestions or requests, so we'll be sure to talk about what you want to talk about.

## Finger Lakes Trail Conference

**To: All Trail Maintainers**

**From: Scott Brooks, aka, The Hammer**

**(FLTC Board Member, Volunteer Census Chief Enforcer)**

It's time to submit our volunteer hours for the annual census. Reporting 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 system 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!

We report the total hours to local, state, and federal agencies, partner organizations, and potential funding sources. The work that you have contributed in 2019 is an important part of this process, so please report your hours before January 19, 2020.

If you work as a trail adopter/steward for a club or organization, please report your individual trail work hours to your Trails Chairperson. For your non-trail work hours (administrative, interpretive, etc.), you may report to your Trails Chair or you may report directly using the on-line Census form.

If you are not affiliated with a club or organization, please report all of your volunteer hours using the on-line Census form.

If you have hours on an organized work project, please do not include them in your individual report; the Project Manager will report those hours. However, check that your Project Manager is aware of your travel time.

If you have individual hours on behalf of the FLTC or the FLT system, please report those hours using the on-line Census form.

Don't forget these important hours:

- Travel
- Scouting routes or leading hikes/events
- Communications, email, reporting.

You can find the on-line Census form on the website <https://fingerlakestrail.org>. From the Home page, go to the Members > Volunteer Trail Workers page and click on the 2019 Census link. You can also go directly to the on-line form at <https://fingerlakestrail.org/members/volunteer-trail-work/2019-volunteer-hours-census/>.

**Thank you** for submitting your volunteer hours by **January 31, 2020**.

**ATTENTION Cortland County Maintainers! Please sweep and vacuum your trail section well in advance of this season's Cross County Hike Series. The series kicks off April 18<sup>th</sup>**



**At Left: New Sign for Private Lands**

Measuring \_\_\_" tall x \_\_\_" wide, the sign is on durable metal that can withstand being posted without a backing board. The colors match those used on our FLTC trail head sign.

Please **ADD this sign to any and all** of the private lands your stretch of trail crosses, just slightly within the boundary lines. Please be sure to post a sign at both ends of the stretch, so hikers coming from both directions will know they are on private lands. Post the sign facing outwards, of course.



**Below, Center & Right: Boot Brush Stations**

At the fall maintainers' meetings, we talked about using boot brushes to help reduce the spread of invasive insect and worm species by cleaning eggs and debris off tools, boots, and hiking poles. Working with Hilary Mosher, Coordinator, Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species, we will be able to get a couple of boot brush stations, **to be set up at "trail heads" with defined parking areas and near especially vulnerable lands (e.g., vineyards)** So, the assignment for you is:

**Off the top of your head, your suggestions, please, with map #, Access Points and/or roads.** Note: GPS coordinates will not help, but a short description that includes the map number, any access point info, road name(s) and side of road will. Info re land owner or agency willingness is welcome, too, but we will work with you to follow up on your suggestion. If this is a good place for a kiosk or has a kiosk already, let me know that, too. The interpretive signage is part of the deal.



**Above: Revised Sign Now Available**

Measuring 11" x 11" and printed on heavy plastic, this sign usually needs a backing board. But it can be stapled to the backing board using 3/8" stainless steel staples in a carpenter's stapler. Post this sign when and where it's warranted – either the landowner asks for it or you discover there's been camping, picnicking, or partying on a non-permitted stretch of trail on private land.



## 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. Do try not to get the saw pinched – plan ahead whether you’re going to start or finish on the top of the trunk. Carry a few plastic wedges and a small trimming saw with you, to open the kerf when you get pinched (it’s inevitable...). Cross cut saws are available in the east from Ed O’Shea at the ADK-Onondaga Ch.-- [eoshea001@twcny.rr.com](mailto:eoshea001@twcny.rr.com); in the central part of the state, from Paul Good at [pago547@aol.com](mailto:pago547@aol.com); and a bit further west, from the FLTC tool shed at Mt. Morris – contact Peter Wybron at [prwybron@rochester.rr.com](mailto:prwybron@rochester.rr.com). It’s actually relaxing and fun!

► **Contact a Certified Sawyer:** Folks who complete the FLTC’s course promise to work outside of their home area when asked and when they are able to. 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	<a href="mailto:tinmannibbs@frontiernet.net">tinmannibbs@frontiernet.net</a>
Darling, Jeff	5/2/10; 5/6/18	851 Gravel Rd., Webster N.Rochester	<a href="mailto:Darling@websterschools.org">Darling@websterschools.org</a>

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 info tell you whether the sawyer is current and how close the sawyer lives to you. After May, 2020, look for sawyers with a most recent date of 2018, 2019, or 2020. The list of RTC’s will be in the April 2020 *TTN*; but, **if you want the list of certified sawyers** before then, **shoot me an email at [ljrassoc@roadrunner.com](mailto:ljrassoc@roadrunner.com)**. The list will be updated again in June, 2020.

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

## 2020 Chainsaw Certification Courses Scheduled for May 23 & 24 and June 6 & 7

December 2019

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 2-day course **FREE** to any current or aspiring FLT trail maintainer or work crew member or NCNST trail volunteer or land trust or land-managing agency personnel. However, every participant **MUST** be an FLTC member or work for one of our land managing or agency partners. Please be current with your CPR/First Aid certifications. (Note [1]: If you’ve taken CPR/First Aid from a real, live instructor, you may update your certifications using convenient online courses. Note [2]: **If** funding is available, you may get reimbursed for your CPR/First Aid courses.)

Regional Trail Coordinators, club trail chairs, and sponsors may contact any sawyer 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 and when 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 overnighting & light cooking. To sign up for the course, you must contact Marty at [howser51@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

With all the insect damage being done to our trees, we need more certified sawyers!



high five

2018 Winner Bigfoot Prize for Grunt Labor

## Volunteer Hours Reported for 2018: 21,435

Multiplied by the **federal** volunteer rate of \$23.53 hr. = **\$504,366 worth of labor donated to the FLT System.**

The total includes 9,773 hrs of trail work, 6,333 administrative hrs, 2,643 interpretive hrs, 1,556 hrs of general resource work (mostly mapping & easements), & 1,131 hrs of training. The total is **3,105 hours fewer** than

reported for 2017, mostly due to a *decrease* in volunteer administrative work. 9,203 hrs were reported to the NCTA and NPS for the FLT/NCNST part of the trail system (M1-M21, O1-O2).



## Tools for Trail Maintainers

Contact the FLTC Quartermaster at [prwybron@rochester.rr.com](mailto:prwybron@rochester.rr.com) for locations & check-out procedures for a DR Mower or the Nova Jack.



**Left: DR Mower** – 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 FLTC covered tool trailer and towed behind a sedan.



**Lower Left: Muck Truck Wheelbarrow** – Gas engine, pull starter (like lawn mower), walk-behind, 4-wheel drive, fast & slow forward gears, reverse gear, climbs up to 30% grades. **Only 2 ft. wide**, so works on most of the FLT. Manual tip for the skip + must be “horsed” around turns = don’t overload; but **can be used by even smaller sized folks pretty easily**. Very useful for moving rocks and stones when building stepping stones, rock treadways, causeways or turnpikes, or stone water-bars.

Fits most pick-up truck beds; can be trailered behind a van, truck, or small SUV, etc. Stored at Rummel’s with trailer she will loan. To borrow, email Lynda at [ljrassoc@roadrunner.com](mailto:ljrassoc@roadrunner.com).

## Tools, continued

December 2019 4



**Nova Jack Woods Trailer** – Double axel trailer has sides (**above, flush with tires**) that can be removed so arms (**below, yellow**) can hold a more narrow or longer load. Manueverable enough to use on jeep roads or temporary “service trails,” towed behind an ATV or UV. Empty trailer is road-ready and easily towed behind a van, truck, small SUV, or Subaru Outback.



To:

**New Private Property Sign,  
Trail Census Info, & Boot  
Brush Stations!**

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