


North Country Trail Association Central New York Chapter News



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Editor's Note: Our goal is to keep all CNY Chapter members and others supporting our efforts informed as to our progress, opportunities, and needs as we strive to build and maintain the North Country National Scenic Trail/Link Trail. Your suggestions, queries, and, of course, your support for this work are both needed and valued. The telephone and e-mail lines are "open" for your comments!

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Major Development—the "Water Withdrawal Legislation—New York"— Approval Expected!

The NY State DEC released its preliminary revised draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) on Oil, Gas, and Solution Mining Regulatory Program on July 1, 2011. Many new, potentially significant, adverse impacts not studied in the prior 1992 GEIS are addressed. The DEC reports that 13,000+ public comments were received since the first draft version was issued in 2009. This comprehensive document should serve well as the basis for a final version, with ongoing public comments reflecting a wide range of viewpoints expected.

The "Water Withdrawal Legislation" would require any industrial, commercial, or agriculture entity capable of drawing more than 100,000 gallons of water daily from a source to secure a NYS DEC permit. Authored by the DEC, this legislation was passed by the Assembly and the Senate and sent to Gov. Cuomo for his anticipated approval. Although this legislation is broad in scope, one major impact will be water use control for Marcellus Shale "high volume hydraulic fracturing" gas well stimulation, often termed hydrofracking. For a typical multi-stage, 4000 foot lateral wellbore, DEC estimates water requirements ranging from 2.4 to 7.8 million gallons as a requirement. An industry estimate for peak drilling operations possible within New York is 9 billion gallons *annually*. Although this is a modest amount when compared to the estimated 10.3 billion gallons withdrawn in New York State *daily*, the impact would be minor. However, the concentration of water usage at a wellhead, as well as the means of getting the water to the site and removing the contaminated waste water could pose major issues. *The bottom line is that this permit system will provide a measure of control over a range of major users, including those seeking to extract natural gas using "hydrofracking."*

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Productive Meeting With NY Parks—July 8

The informal, multi-topic meeting was scheduled at my request to enable me to meet the new Verona Beach State Park manager, Joe Morissette, our local NY Parks contact, in person. Les Miller from Central Region HQ. was able to join us as well—had other duties there too.

Discussions included the need to address major drainage issues affecting the trail south and north of Carry's Hill Road quickly on a joint effort basis, NY Parks regulatory signage needs on two trail sections, decision that the Quarry Road crossing trail guidance/fencing issues had been resolved in a manner that assures the support of the adjacent landowner, an update from Les Miller about the delayed transfer of Canal Corp land to NY Parks in the Delta Lake area, and more.

The ten-year partnership of effort between our Central NY chapter-NCTA and NY Parks has resulted in a foot-trail that provides the user public-at-large healthful physical exercise and a sense of solitude—all at no cost to any user. Although the viewpoints held by us and NY Parks have differed in a few cases, the results overall can truly be termed an example of synergism. On that basis, we will file a request for another five-year permit this month.

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A Recent Brief Trail Segment Closing—Safety Concerns—Some Interesting Technical Notes-

- Buried pipelines are often out of sight, out of mind until an incident occurs, often with a fire/explosion
- The 24-inch diameter high-pressure natural gas line passing under the trail near Canastota is encased in a protective casing—ultrasonic testing was required to assure pipe integrity—corrosion can start from many causes. Careful excavation was needed.
- Good news—tests were satisfactory—this pipeline operates at 480 psig—quality steel and proper installation/maintenance are essential for safe use.

Trails Day: Black River Canal Museum

By Kathy Eisele

Nine members and guests of our chapter traveled to the Black River Canal Museum in Boonville to celebrate Trails Day on June 4. Upon arrival, Daphne Larrabee, who gave us a guided overview of the museum's exhibits, met us. Laura Czajka, Alyssa Matthews, and Dale Ferris, curator, assisted her. Our contribution to the day was Steve Kinne's Power Point presentation on the North Country National Scenic Trail. A thank you to Charles Matthews for providing technical assistance to get Steve's computer properly interfaced with the museum's projection equipment!

The museum, located right on the Black River Canal, has wonderful exhibits from the canal days (first boat traveled from Rome to Boonville in 1850, last boat left Boonville in 1924), including changing displays of enlarged photographs of the canal and surrounding communities selected from an inventory of more than 3,000 photos. The many other exhibits include tools and other artifacts; a display showing the 109 locks between Rome and Lyons Falls, a 35 miles distance with a rise/fall of 1,079 feet; a working mini-canal replica that allows visitors (or as Daphne put it "children of all ages") to run model canal boats through a set of locks to see how the system worked.

One of the newest exhibits is a life-sized replica of a Black River Canal Boat, constructed using original plans, that gives an idea of what life was like living and working on the canal. Currently being developed at the museum is an Archives Room, which, when finished, will be open to the public for research. The gift shop offers memorabilia, including t-shirts, books and DVDs. Also, if one of the photos in the museum's displays particularly appeals to you, an 8x10 reprint can be ordered.

Ed Fynmore, now President of the museum's Board of Trustees, initiated the museum in 2003 when he organized a group of interested volunteers. He, the Board of Trustees, and all of the other volunteers merit congratulations for developing a real asset in the North Country, well worth a trip to Boonville. In addition, of course, trailheads to the NCNST to Pixley Falls (approx. 6 mile hike) or to Forestport (approx. 10 mile hike) are nearby. The museum is open seven days a week starting the last week end in June through Labor Day, 10 to 4, then on weekends to Columbus Day.

History fans—check the website—it and its many links provide access to some fascinating canal era data: <http://www.boonvilleblackrivercanalmuseum.com> (next column—Museum entrance photograph)



Museum entrance—Eileen Fairbrother smiles for the photographer, George Zacharek.

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Cazenovia Boy Scout Troop 18—July 4 Activity-

Preparing for the traditional July 4th parade, these lads are preparing signs and other exhibits that attest to



their valued community service contributions. We are pleased to express our appreciation for their service as stewards on the Link Trail—with leadership by Scoutmaster George Schmidt and his adult team.

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A Sunday Morning June Visitor—Erieville, NY

Trail Steward Vic Nelson sent this photo—a young bear



"visiting" the yard of his cousins—the Barrows.

Perhaps this bear plans to "raid" the bird feeder in the foreground. The Barrow's home is a short distance east of the Tioughnioga WMA.

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Grass/Weed Cutting Power Tool Familiarization Session Held On June 18th—Informative!

The relatively large self-propelled DR Grass/Brush mower provides an effective means of cutting a wide variety of typical trail brush and more. However, to assure safe operation and long service life, there are a number of checklist items every operator must heed. In addition, our chapter experience with our 2003 12 .5 HP machine has shown that engineering changes/fixes will occur—sometimes motivated by user findings per our experience to date. In the photo below, Mary K-L is providing good tips about the differential lock-out feature and more.



String Trimmers are widely used but often not in the most efficient and safest manner. All of our chapter owned units are two stroke engine powered; fuel gas/oil ratio specifications vary—typically from 32/1 to 50/1. Gasoline/ethanol blended fuels pose problems for these engines; additives and the use of higher octane rated fuel are strongly recommended. Replacing the string cutting line is often a problem, particularly if the cutting head has accumulated debris. Steve Kinne shared his field acquired knowledge with the group.



Trimmers are just one of his many trail related skills—Like to share yours to help? Let me know — Editor

The DR self-propelled powerful string trimmer offers a good means of cutting a wide range of grasses and heavier growth weeds. Its compact size and approximate weight of 80 pounds make transport to/from the work sites relatively easy. Again, it is important that the operator be conversant with the operating characteristics, as well as the proper way to replace the cutting lines. The machine provided to the chapter has several useful accessories. One, termed the “beaver blade” must be used with great caution; the blade is a horizontally mounted, circular chain saw that has its cutting edge projecting forward of the mower housing. It will be useful for special cases where the DR large brush mower cannot be used.

Mike Lynch owns a DR Power String Trimmer and used it for demonstration purposes—the machine is well maintained and cleaned after each use—the DR String trimmer accumulates dirt and debris during use that



will compromise its capabilities and service life if not removed promptly.

Supplemental data for the DR machines were provided to all participants. Having it available in the field is a good policy.

Safety precautions applicable to use of all these powered grass/weed machines include:

- Hearing protection is a must—the db level is high!
- Eye Safety protection—wrap around safety glasses are suggested. (alternately, use a helmet with a face screen and ear muffs to meet the needs.)
- Protective clothing—long sleeve shirts, pants, and gloves are a minimum/
- Footgear—strong boots with a non-slip tread are best—sandals should NOT be worn.

Overall—good investment of effort by all!

- ◆ Important DEC & State Actions
- ◆ Boonville Black River Canal Museum
- ◆ Trail Maintenance Powered Equipment
- ◆ Recreational & Work Hiking Schedules

Inside:

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CNY Chapter Recreational & Work Hikes and Other Events—July October 2011: by Nancy McCain & Kathy Eisele

Join us for a recreational or work hike—either can be a satisfying experience! When you go on any hike, dress appropriately and bring food and water. The listed volunteer coordinator will arrange car pooling at the meeting place. The coordinators are volunteers; assist them by staying with the group during the event. **Of course, hiking may involve risks; all participating do so at his/her own risk.** **Hike Difficulty Ratings:** E-easy, primarily level, less than 4 miles hiking distance; M-moderate, less than 1000 feet of elevation change, 4-7 miles hiking distance; Strenuous S, 1000 to 2500 feet of elevation change, 7-12 miles hiking distance.. Questions about a Hike? Contact the listed coordinator.

Work Hikes: Typically, these involve trail maintenance or light duty construction—Expert skills not required but consider your physical condition—The chapter has tools to loan, but bring your own loppers, bow saw, or weed whip—gloves and appropriate footwear strongly recommended.

Saturday, July 23rd—Wildflower Hike (E) Coordinator Mary Dineen, 315-424-1284—Site is the Art Park., Cazenovia. Meet at State Parking lot—Rt 20, South end of Cazenovia Lake at 10:00 AM.

Saturday, August 27—Work Hike (M) (Date Change) Coordinator Kathy Eisele, 315-672-5645—punchon installation on trail north of Dugway Road— Meet at State Parking lot-Rt 20, South end of Cazenovia Lake at 9:00 AM— wear wet terrain boots!

Thursday, September 15—Work Hike (M)—Coordinator-Mike Lynch, 315-687-6113—Trail maintenance—Meet at State Parking Lot, Rt 20, South end of Cazenovia Lake at 9:00 AM.

Sunday, September 18—Local Cazenovia History (E)—Leader will be **Matt Urtz**, Madison County Historian Nancy McCain—Coordinator—315-637-6426. **This hiking tour is open to the public—invite your friends.** Start Point: Buyea’s Parking lot off Rt 20 at 1:00 PM—Park on the creek side of the lot near the lane leading to William Street. Tour will include section of the Gorge Trail and return, thence across Rt 20 to Riverside Drive, Carpenter Pond trail, and will end at the historic Carpenter’s Barn—total time about 2.5-3.0 hours. Enjoy a walk through the Village back to the Buyea lot—take time to enjoy a snack or more! More details on our website —<http://www.cnynta.org>.

Sunday, October 23—Annual CNY Chapter Meeting—Canastota Library —2:00 PM. Contact Jack Miller—315-446-7257 and/or check the chapter web site at <http://www.cnynta.org>