



Great Eastern Trail in New York on the Finger Lakes Trail

Spring 2010 The Great Eastern Trail in New York (GET in NY) continues to add mileage on the ground as completed trail (20 miles) ready for hiking. The orange blazed branch trail connects with the Mid State Trail at the NY/PA border near Lawrenceville, PA/Cowanesque Lake and continues north to the Pinnacle State Park near the Village of Addison in Steuben County. During 2009, all of the volunteer work was done at the northern end of the trail near the Moss lean to (Map 13, between Access 4 and 5) heading south through the South Bradford State Forest, some private property and the Meads Creek State Forest as well as on the Watson Homestead Retreat and Conference Center. Volunteers used chainsaws and a variety of hand tools to open/clear the trail as a footpath in the woods. Probably the most difficult job for the volunteers was to maintain a 10% grade. A 2009 Alley Cat crew (GET in NY crew) spent a week digging into the side of the hill in Meads Creek State Forest for approximately 1 mile of new trail. Volunteers for 2009 included scouts (3 eagle scout projects—Thanks Kyle Pruden (crew leader), Mike Parken (24 and 28 foot open span bridges) and Jake Olson (crew leader)), RIT students for a Wellness Weekend, students from All Saints Parish and the Corning Alternative Science and Math School and many other individuals from across NYS. Landowner permissions (Thank you to Marge and Gordon Van Vleet (Painted Post area) and Cal Swisher (Addison)) continue to grow as we scout and explore during the winter and spring months to find the best possible location for the proposed new sections of the trail.

So the work continues. In the south (Addison area), we have reached Mose Rd/Beeman Hollow Rd. Scouting is nearly complete and flagging will begin in the spring in anticipation of trail construction in the Summer/Fall 2010. In the north (Campbell/Erwin area), we will continue trail construction from Meads Creek Rd, across Watson Homestead Retreat and Conference Center (approved) to the West Hill State Forest pending final DEC approval for 2010. There will be many opportunities to “give back”/build trail on the GET in NY on a day or weekend work party. During the spring, we will begin the process to name this new branch trail.

Trail building work crews will be held on the following weekends:

April 30-May 2 (Full—RIT Wellness Weekend)

May 7-9 (Full—RIT Wellness Weekend)

June 5-6

July 13-14 (weekday work crew)

September 18-19

November 6-7

Specific locations will be determined later. If you are interested in becoming involved in any aspect of building this new branch trail on the FLT, please contact Pat Monahan, Project Manager at pmonahan@stny.rr.com. Your name can be added to the list serve for all information about the GET in NY.