

**North Country Trail Team**  
**2008 Annual Summary, Mary Coffin**  
**10/27/08**

The **mission** of the NCTT is to extend the FLT and NCT Onondaga Trail ~22 miles eastward from Spruce Pond to Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area, monument 22 at the junction of the NCT north, FLT Onondaga and Link Trail south.. It is a 2-3 foot wide footpath/hiking trail open to foot travel only. The project involves four season scouting, obtaining landowner permission, negotiating with DEC, flagging, construction, blazing, certification and seeking stewards to maintain the trail.

2008 was a very productive year with project **82% complete, ~18 mi** (all approximate), 3-4 mi to go. When complete:

- 36% State land ~8 mi
- 23% Onondaga County ~5 mi
- 27% private ~6 mi
- 12% Temp road connector. ~2.6 mi

1. The ADK-ON FLT/NCT **Onondaga extension project is now 82% complete** with 18 of 22 miles constructed, GPSed, and included on the revised O-1 Map and all but Tioughnioga WMA on new O-2 Map. The WMA is cleared and flagged and hopefully blazed prior to hunting season. NTC was added to the Highland Forest Park trail map.. FLT signage is at all trailheads and NPS carsonites have been installed on the newly certified sections..

2. **Volunteers in 2008** have participated in over 50 trail work events and expended over 1100 person hours on the extension trail alone. At the NPS rate,\$18/hr = \$ 19,800 value.

3. **New Trail on State land in 2008:**

Morgan Hill State Forest 1.7 miles new from Spruce Pond to Shackham Pond now totals 4.1 miles in MHSF. It is all GPSed, benched, water bars and blazed and a bridge was constructed over Shackham Rd ditch. Steward assigned Dick Lightcap.

DeRuyter State Forest: 1.35 miles new trail from Skeele boundary to Tromp Rd. It is all GPSed, benched and blazed. Tromp to Fairbanks Rd.(0.54 mi.) will have to wait for logger to finish work in 2009. Stewards assigned Bill Coffins Sr. and Jr.

Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area: 1.5 miles flagged and cleared from monument 22 junction at Holmes Rd. north across Limestone (East Branch) Creek, to Damon Rd. We now have private landowner access and hope to blaze prior to hunting. Blazing, 65%complete, must be minimal in a WMA.

4. **NPS-NCT 3.1 miles Certification:** Applications have been sent to FLTC and NPS for completed trail in Morgan Hill and DeRuyter State Forests. All other completed off road sections (~40 mi.) of the Onondaga Trail are certified and noted on Maps O-1&O-2.

5.. **Landowners:** Several landowners are considering permanent protection for the trail corridor in the form of trail easements. Due to a land sale we need one additional landowner near New Woodstock. There are several positive prospects we have talked to. Scouting is needed.

6. **Registers** have been installed on new sections (except WMA) and people are signing in and using the trail.

7. **Outreach:** We led 2 community hikes on new trail, made 4 presentations (over 100 participated) to community groups (town boards, DeRuyter-Cuyler Rutatan, Fabius Historical Society), exhibited at the New Woodstock Library and NY State Fair

Presentations yielded resolutions of support from Madison County Board of Supervisors, Town of Cazenovia and Town of DeRuyter. Negotiations with the DEC regarding the Tioughnioga WMA UMP resulted in a TRP (permit) to clear and blaze trail the Ti WMA.

8. **Brochure:** NCTA cartography department helped design a map of Onondaga Trail extension that is part of a brochure we used with community outreach walks and presentations. We hope “neighbors of the trail” in communities like New Woodstock and Fabuis will begin to view the trail as a community resource and help us protect it.

9. **Trail usage:** People are using the new sections of trail. The word is out and brochures are being picked up. We have encountered non club hikers on all new sections. This is rewarding.

**All of the above could have not been accomplished without the hard working, loyal ADK trail volunteers. Many thanks.**

**Think about joining us in the spring.**